



Inside

Exclusive:
**WHY DID STING TEAM WITH
DOOM'S RON SIMMONS?**

February 1991

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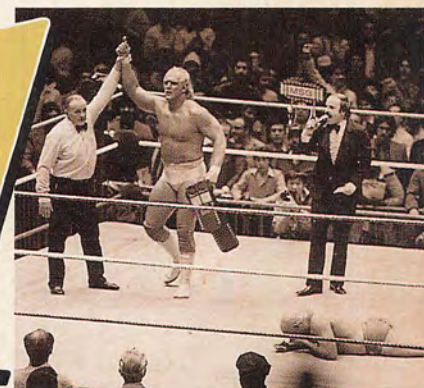
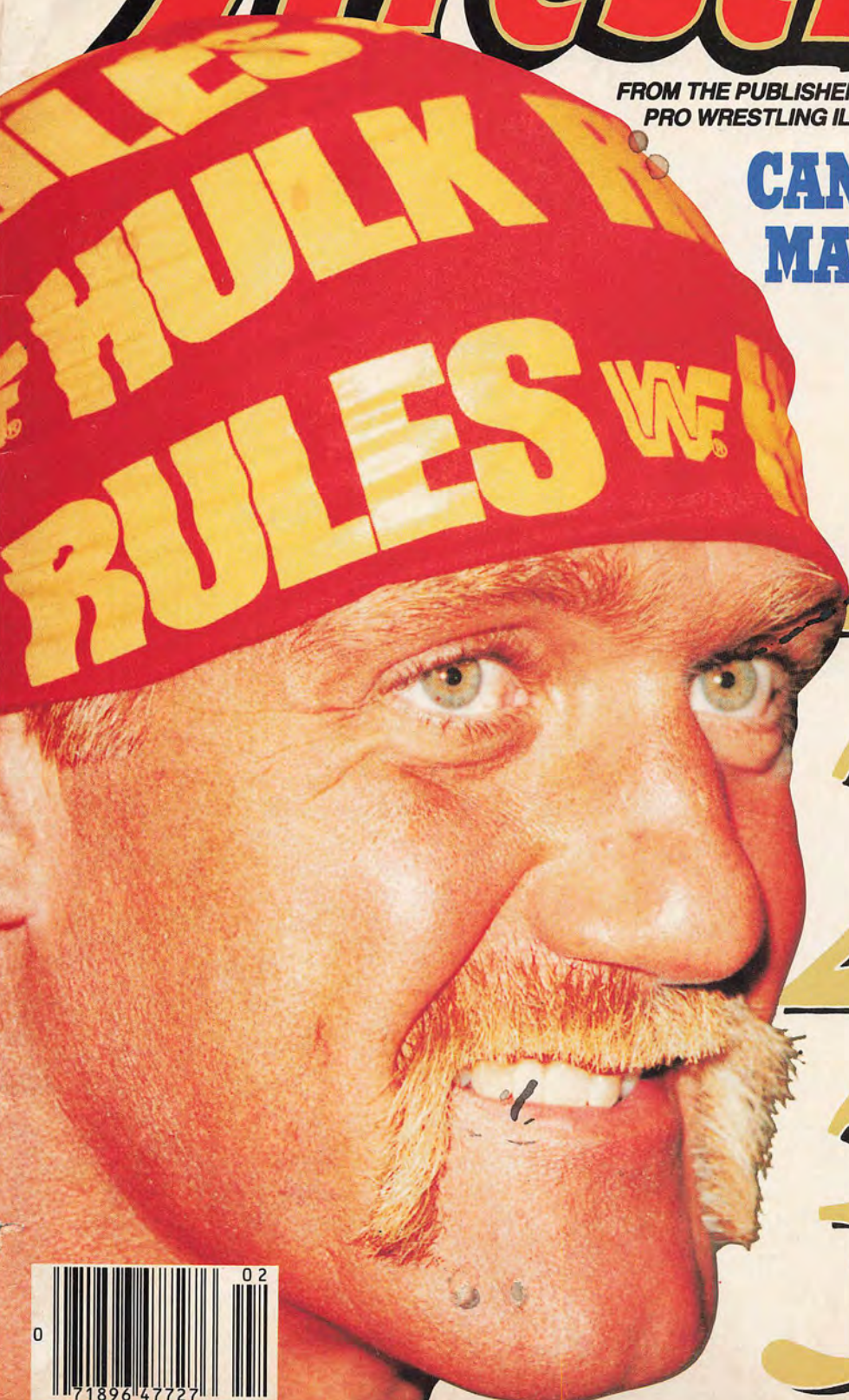
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**CAN HULK HOGAN
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DON'T MISS IT!

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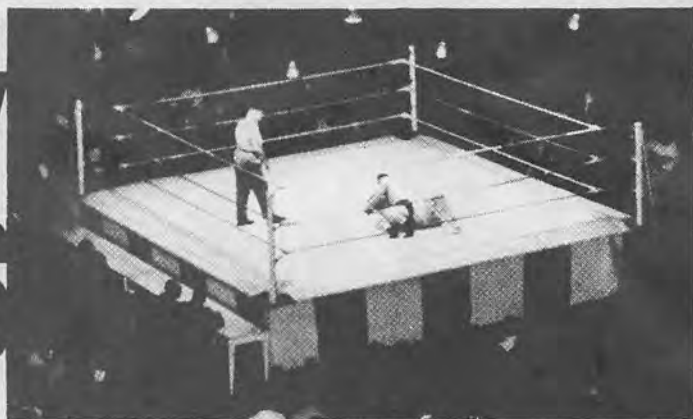
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SINCERELY YOURS

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DUMP TUNNEY

In the December 1990 issue, there is a letter from Erik Lien entitled "Enough Is Enough." I am in full agreement with Erik when he says the WWF needs a new president. Have any of you readers noticed that Tunney is not the man he was before being manhandled by Bad News Brown during an appearance on the Brother Love show?



Gene Okerlund doesn't know what he's talking about, in reader Ray Powers' view.

I also agree that Gorilla Monsoon would make a fine president. In addition, the WWF would be greatly improved if they would get rid of Gene Okerlund, who never seems to know what he is talking about. Let Roddy Piper take over for him.

RAY POWERS
S. New Berlin, NY

REMATCH RIPOFF

Lately, there has been a very disturbing trend in pro wrestling, and I really hope it stops soon: A wrestler loses his belt, and then is virtually forgotten as far as rematches are concerned.

I always thought that when a wrestler lost a title, he was *first* in line for title shots. That's the way it should be. Yet, when Hulk Hogan lost the WWF World title to The Ultimate Warrior in a classic match, not only was he not granted a rematch, WWF President Jack Tunney said he wouldn't even *consider* a rematch. If ever a wrestler deserved an immediate rematch, because of his lengthy and honorable title reign, it's Hulk Hogan.

However, this trend doesn't seem to apply in the NWA. When Rick Steamboat beat Ric Flair for the NWA World title in 1989, Flair was immediately granted a series of rematches, which resulted in not only Flair winning back the belt, but also produced some of the best wrestling action ever.

So show some guts, matchmakers and league presidents. The former champs have the right to the first title shots.

BYRON SANDERS
St. Paul, MN

MADUSA SHOULD RETURN

Craig Peters devoted his "On The Road" column (December 1990) to Madusa Miceli, and I have no problem with that. I would just like to see Miceli do some more wrestling here in the States. It seems to me that she gave up too easily in her quest for Susan

Sexton's LPWA title.

I'm sure the competition in Japan is very tough, but until Madusa wins the LPWA championship (which in my opinion has become *the* women's title in the U.S.), I'll take a wait-and-see attitude about her abilities as a wrestler.

DEANNA NEWKIRK
Vancouver, WA



Madusa Miceli should try for the LPWA title, writes reader Deanna Newkirk.



Sid Vicious has crushed Lex Luger, in reader Dennis Towne's opinion, and he'll crush NWA World champion Sting, too.

SPOOKED STING

I definitely agree with your article that Sting has been spooked by Sid Vicious ("Halloween Havoc Horror! Why Sting Is Spooked By Sid Vicious," December 1990). The "Stinger" has faced a lot of big, powerful men before, but nobody quite like the awesome Vicious. No matter what the outcome at "Halloween Havoc," Vicious will always be breathing down Sting's neck.

There's no doubt in my mind that Vicious is a future world champion, if not in the NWA, then in the WWF. Sid is too good to be denied for long.

DENNIS TOWNE
New Bern, NC

FUJI'S FIGHTERS

As the WWF looks ahead to 1991, I believe The Orient Express will be the team to shine and take the World tag team title from whoever happens to be holding it at the time, even if it's the mighty Legion of Doom.

No way, you're thinking. Akio Sato

and Pat Tanaka are much too small to stand up to anybody. Sure, they're small, but I detect in these men a purpose and fighting spirit that cannot be crushed by the most powerful fists. You can see it in their eyes. They want to win, and they're willing to pay the price.

Tanaka, especially, wants to prove to the fans that he can win another



Akio Sato tags off to Pat Tanaka, his partner in The Orient Express, during a bout against The Rockers. Reader Harold Greenwell says Mr. Fuji will lead the Orient Express to greatness.

world title (remember, he and Paul DiAmmond were AWA World tag champs). He was a fine champion, too, not afraid to stand up to anyone, no matter what the size.

Mark my words: In The Orient Express, Mr. Fuji has a winner. This truly is a team of the future.

HAROLD GREENWELL
New Britain, CT

FIRE AND FLAME

Bravo to Bob Smith for his fine article about excessive flame-throwing in wrestling ("The Inside Wrestling Solution: Throw Flame? Lifetime Suspension!" December 1990). It is a complete mystery to me how anyone who throws fire can be allowed to get away with it.

Does this possibly happen because federation presidents think the fans enjoy the spectacle of fire in the ring? I personally think it's disgusting. I first saw it when I was a kid. The Sheik threw fire at some hapless opponent and nearly blinded the man. I cried when I saw that.

Today, you have idiots like Jerry Lawler and Eddie Gilbert throwing fire whenever they feel like it. When is the madness going to stop? When promoters have the guts to do what you suggest: levy lifetime suspensions!

ROGER NELSON
Little Rock, AR
(Continued on page 52)

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Stu
Saks

Editor-in-Chief

NWA officials can certainly breathe easier knowing that, for one night anyway, crime didn't pay. The Horsemen's hoax to steal the World title from Sting, while brilliantly conceived, did not work.

But Jim Herd's promise that there would be "an investigation into the situation" is the executive vice president's way of saying, "Boy, that was a close one; I'm glad that's over with."

This is wrestling, folks. People get thrown out of organizations for excessive mama jokes. But execute a plot to steal a champion's title (which is the same as stealing money from his pocket)? There probably won't even be a slap on the wrist.

But when you think about how close the Horsemen's plot came to working, this should have been enough to get even Ted Turner's attention.

What would have happened if Sting hadn't been able to free himself after being tied up in the locker room by Sid Vicious and Ole Anderson? The answer is, quite simply, we'd have a new NWA champion.

When Barry Windham emerged from the locker room disguised as Sting, the TV cameras did not get a decent shot of his face. According to Tony Schiavone, whom I asked to review the angles shot by the secondary cameras, none offered conclusive proof that it was an impostor in the ring with Vicious.

If Sting weren't able to get back to ringside and confront Windham, the referee's pin would have counted. And Sting could have protested all he wanted, but there would have been no grounds to overturn the decision.

That would have been tragic not only for Sting and his fans, but for Herd, the NWA, and the sport of wrestling as a whole.

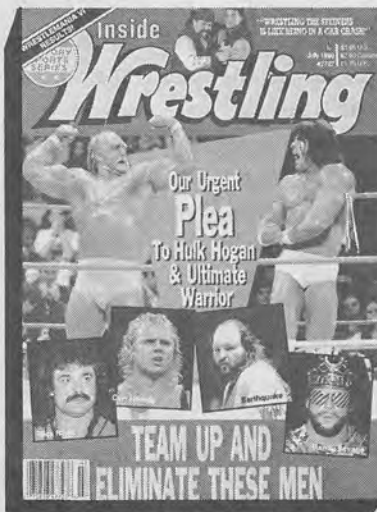
In this instance, no investigation is needed. The proof of the Horsemen's treachery is irrefutable. Do something about it, Herd!

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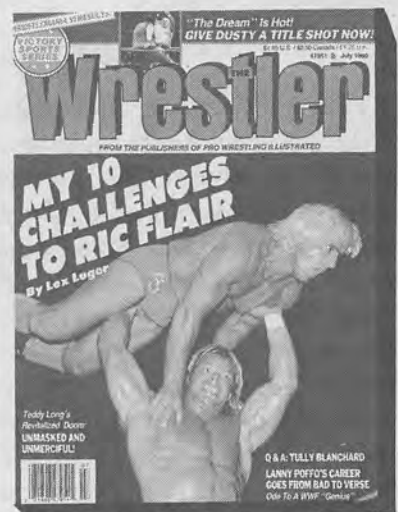
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NAMES MAKI



SHAWN MICHAELS VS. JIM NEIDHART

IT WAS A RARE championship matchup between scientific teams, and it made history: **The Rockers—Shawn Michaels** and **Marty Jannetty**—defeated **The Hart Foundation—Jim Neidhart** and **Bret Hart**—in a best-of-three-falls match for the WWF World tag team title on October 30 in Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

With the tag team talent in the WWF growing larger and larger, few expected The Rockers to win a championship, particularly since Michaels had just returned to action following surgery on his right knee. The Rockers, however, wrestled brilliantly throughout this grueling match and earned the respect of all their doubters.

The match was totally scientific until tempers flared during the third fall. In the first fall, Jannetty pinned Hart after reversing a sunset flip attempt by "The Hitman." Hart came back to even the score by pinning Michaels after delivering a stunning "Hart attack" clothesline.

During the third fall, Hart and Neidhart, sensing that they could not outwrestle their agile challengers,

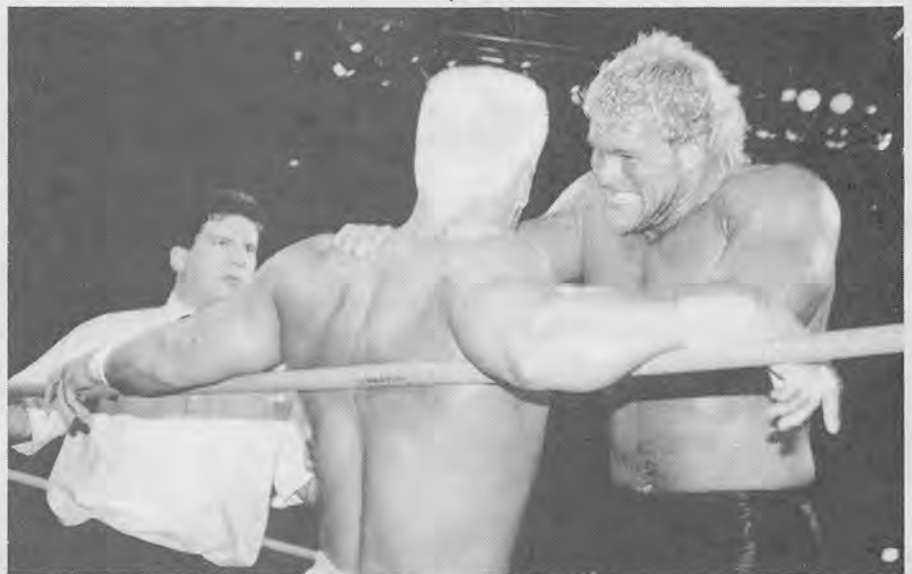
changed the tempo of the match by turning to brawling tactics. After beating Jannetty unmercifully, Neidhart scooped up Hart and prepared to slam him on top of Jannetty. But Michaels charged into the ring and dropkicked Neidhart, sending Hart to the canvas and Neidhart out of the ring. Jannetty followed up with a quick pin on Hart to win the championship. The new and former champions received a rousing

ovation from the appreciative fans when they shook hands after the bout. How often do you see that?

The victory made The Rockers the first team ever to hold both the AWA and WWF World tag team championships (they held the AWA title twice in 1987 and 1988). They face tough challenges ahead from Power & Glory, Rhythm 'n' Blues, and The Legion Of Doom.

As for The Hart Foundation, sources within the WWF claim that Hart and Neidhart were so disheartened by the loss that they are contemplating splitting up their team. The two-time tag team champions will surely go down in history as one of the finest duos in the history of the WWF.

A stunningly elaborate plot to steal **Sting's** NWA World title was unveiled by **The Four Horsemen** during **Sid Vicious'** match with the champion at "Halloween Havoc '90," held October 27 at the UIC Pavilion in Chicago. The Horsemen tried to help Vicious win the title by attempting to fool referee **Nick Patrick**. How? They sent an impostor Sting into the ring to intentionally lose!



STING VS. SID VICIOUS

N' NEWS

Bill Apter
reporting...

Late in the match, Sting and Vicious began brawling outside the ring when **Ric Flair** and **Arn Anderson** showed up at ringside and began arguing with Patrick. Vicious started making his way back to the dressing room as Sting followed him down the aisle.

Moments later, Vicious made his way back to the ring, followed by a man who appeared to be Sting. Vicious missed with a clothesline, and "Sting" tried to lift Vicious for a bodyslam, but collapsed under the weight of Vicious'



GILBERT VS. JARRETT

guess I should never underestimate how calculating the Horsemen really are."

For a complete examination of the plot—including how it was formulated and how it was foiled—don't miss the cover story in the February 1990 edition of *The Wrestler*, currently on sale.

Also at "Halloween Havoc," **Stan Hansen** defeated **Lex Luger** for the U.S. championship by delivering a lari-at to the "Total Package" at the 9:30 mark. Hansen's comments about the victory can be read in this issue's "Hotseat" (see page 42), but Luger was surprisingly even-tempered following the loss.

"I'll regain the U.S. title," Luger said softly just minutes after the defeat. "I know that Hansen beat me tonight, but I consider that loss to be just a fluke. I know I'm a better wrestler than Hansen, and I'll prove it the next time that we meet."

Devious **Johnathan Hollday** has entered the WWF as a manager, but it looks as if he'll have his work cut out for him. His first two proteges are "**Playboy**" **Buddy Rose** and **The**

Black Demon, two men who have been mired in the preliminary ranks for months. Holliday claims he can make champions out of both of them. If he does, he has my vote for Manager of the Year! . . . **The Tasmanian Devil** has emerged as the top challenger to **Carlos Colon's** WWC Universal title . . . **Eddie Gilbert** defeated **Jeff Jarrett** to capture the USWA Southern title on October 29 in Memphis. "Hot Stuff" burned Jarrett with a fireball to set up the victory.

Young **Preston Steele** captured the IWA U.S. title by defeating **Cac-**



ARN ANDERSON

318 pounds. Patrick made the three-count, and Vicious was awarded the NWA belt.

Moments after that decision, however, the truth was revealed. The *real* Sting appeared in the aisle. Dangling from his right wrist was the rope that was used to hastily tie him up in the dressing room area. Patrick ordered that the match continue. After a "Stinger splash," the champion had retained his title.

"I can't believe that even the Horsemen would go to such lengths to take the title from me," said a badly shaken Sting in the locker room following the bout. "What a diabolical scheme! I would've suspected **The Black Scorpion** to pull this kind of a stunt, but I



PRESTON STEELE

tus Jack in a tournament final on October 5 in Girard, Ohio . . . **Bambi** regained the National Wrestling League's women's title on October 23 in Guam, downing rugged **Peggy Lee Leather**. Just two days earlier, Leather had won the title from Bambi.

That's all for now, fans. See you at the matches!

PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING is in horrible shape, mired in the depths of a financial depression and striving for new levels of fan disinterest the likes of which the sport has never known.

Professional wrestling is in wonderful shape, continuing the massive growth exhibited in the mid-'80s (albeit at a somewhat slower pace) and boasting more better-informed fans every day.

Oddly enough, both of the above statements are correct.

The fact of the matter is that fans *are* better-informed than at any other time in the sport's history. Cable television brings more federations into the average fan's home, and our family of publications—including the *Pro Wrestling Illustrated Weekly* newsletter, which seems to grow in popularity almost daily—is packed with more information and is welcoming new readers all the time.

In addition, the past year has seen the formation of nearly a dozen new independent federations on the U.S. scene. Perhaps the foremost of these is the California-based UWF, which has succeeded in assembling a very impressive roster of talent in a very short time: "Dr. Death" Steve Williams, B. Brian Blair, Dan Spivey, Paul Orndorff, Bob Orton, David Sammartino, Billy Jack Haynes, and Col. DeBeers all appeared at the UWF's first TV taping in September. Ken Patera joined the ranks in October, and it looks like a major coup was scored by the UWF in that Andre the Giant may soon be competing there.

Yet the ironic twin-truth of my two opening paragraphs is reflected by one fact of the UWF's existence: Aside from television tapings, the UWF (at press time) has yet to hold a card.

Why? I don't know. I do know that the UWF powers-that-be plan to hold cards in the near future, but they are going to be up against some stiff odds. Attendance at live cards is down all over the country, and it's affecting every federation in the sport. October's WWF card in Madison Square Garden, for example, drew barely 7,000 fans in a building that seats in excess of 20,000 for wrestling.

Meanwhile, to flip back to the other side of the coin for a second, revenues for wrestling's pay-per-view events (of which there were eight in 1990) continue to rise. Which leads me to conclude that more fans are watching wrestling, but fewer fans are going to see wrestling in the arenas.

That's a shame. I'm a record (and tape and compact disc) collector, and my shelves are packed with recordings of all kinds of music, including rock, jazz, and classical. And while Bruce Springsteen, Wynton Marsalis, and Erich Kunzel and the Cincinnati Pops sound great through my speakers, nothing can compare with the expe-

ON THE ROAD

with
CRAIG PETERS

rience of hearing them in person. Likewise, nothing can compare with the experience of seeing wrestling in person.

I conducted a mini-poll of some fans in my neighborhood to try and find out why they aren't going to the matches.

"Too expensive. After tickets, transportation, refreshments, and souvenirs, it costs a bundle. And if I want to bring my wife and two kids? Forget about it! You're talking two weeks' spending money for one night out, and I just can't afford it."

"I almost went to the Garden [in October], but the card was crap. No Hulk Hogan, no Ultimate Warrior, no Legion of Doom, no Randy Savage. I mean, come on! Who really wants to pay almost 20 bucks to see The Warlord vs. Koko B. Ware and Shane Douglas vs. Steve Lombardi? It's pathetic!"

"I don't see why I should go to the matches in person when I have all the wrestling I want on television. On my cable system here in New York, I get WWF, NWA, AWA, LPWA, UWF, USWA, and ICW. I can't afford all the blank tapes I'd need to tape and watch it all. I'm overdosed on wrestling, so there's no need to go to the matches."

I can understand the problems expressed by these three fans, but they don't wash with me.

First of all, there are ways to cut financial corners at the matches. For example, you can buy tickets for cheaper seats and bring your own snacks to cut down on concession costs.

Don't like the match lineup? Give it a chance! Take the opportunity to give a closer look to wrestlers you might not have paid serious attention to before.

Overdosed on TV? It's a different experience completely. Comparing TV wrestling and live wrestling is like listening to Springsteen on record and seeing him in person—both great, and both worth your time and effort.

Why should you go to the matches in person? Because if you don't, you're only getting half the picture, you're missing out on a big part of what this sport has to offer.

Are you caught up in the paradox? Do you watch more and more wrestling on TV and go to fewer cards at your local arenas? If so, write to "On The Road" (c/o *Inside Wrestling*, Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571) and tell me why. I'd like to know.

And in a future column, I'll let all our readers know, too. □



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Sting, back in action in a wrestling revolution as the greatest stars from the NWA battle the new young aggressors! Sting in a great comeback against Ric Flair for the championship. Also: Doom vs. Rock 'n Roll Express, Mean Mark vs. Lex Luger, Southern Boys, etc.

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#6 WRESTLE WAR '89 MUSIC CITY SHOWDOWN

Ric Flair regains the NWA belt from Rick Steamboat on May 7, 1989 in Nashville. Some call it the match of the decade! Also: Lex Luger vs. Michael Hayes, Road Warriors vs. Rotundo & Williams; and more!

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#7 WRESTLE WAR '90 WILD THING

Lex Luger could have won the NWA title from Ric Flair, but saving Sting from a crippling attack from the Andersons took priority! Also: Steiners vs. Andersons, Road Warriors vs. Skyscrapers and more!

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TOP SECRET

Behind the Dressing Room Door

**by David
Rosenbaum**

WHEN I WAS 10 years old, saying insulting things about another person's mother was a good way to either make a point or get a fat lip.

But that was 20 years ago. For me, "mother jokes" have gone the way of flipping baseball cards and sneaking girlie books into the house. As, I suppose, is the case with most adults.

Similarly, most adults aren't bothered when other adults say things about their mothers. They simply (and correctly) assume that the other person is immature.

But that's not the case in the WWF, where Rick Rude was suspended indefinitely by WWF President Jack Tunney for "grossly inappropriate" comments about Big Bossman's mother.

The WWF is laboring under a kindergarten mentality!

Let's take this case step by step.

1. Rick Rude. The former Intercontinental champion is a functioning adult of reasonable intelligence. He has been in this sport for over seven years. Certainly, he has interacted with other adults. It's absolutely incredible that a man his age is still making comments about another person's mother.

2. Big Bossman. As immature as Rude is for making these comments, that's how immature Bossman is for taking them seriously. Rude's comments actually enraged Bossman. Ridiculous. Bossman should learn to take childish acts with a grain of salt. I can only imagine Bossman's rage if Rude stuck out his tongue and shouted, "Baby! Baby! Stick your head in gravy." Or maybe, "I see London, I see France . . ." Well, you get the idea; too bad

(Continued on page 56)



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THE

INSIDER

By Eddie Ellner



As perfect as he is, Curt Hennig cannot do anything about the blatantly nearsighted federation officials who can't see fit to supply a second official at ringside. Anything to protect fan favorites like Kerry Von Erich.

[The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.]

NEW YORK CITY, Madison Square Garden: In his enthusiasm to regain the Intercontinental title from Kerry Von Erich, Curt Hennig accidentally slugs the referee, knocking him out. Hennig then proceeds to administer a beating to Von Erich the likes of which hasn't been seen since Sonny Corleone kicked the linguine out of his brother-in-law in *The Godfather*.

Hennig, whose currency this night is strictly KOs, ends the

butt-kicking in style by laying the "Texas Tornado" out flat on the mat. Von Erich is dead, kaput, barely breathing. The match is over, the count a formality. Hennig places a finger on his immobile foe for the pin, but . . . what have we here? It's the champion's best friend: Sleeping Referee.

Hennig bangs the mat. One! Two! Three! He kicks the referee in the head to try and awaken him. He leaves Von Erich and stomps furiously around the ring. He could have taken a stroll uptown to Central Park and gone roller skating!

He returns to Von Erich, still laying there like a fish wrapped in newspaper, and pins him again.

One! Two! Three! We've now exceeded the record for the world's longest pin count. One! Two! Three!

Ever so slowly, the referee awakens. Hennig screams for him to begin the count. The referee literally rolls over to the grapplers and lifts a groggy arm. One! Five seconds pass before the ref's arm hits canvas again. Two! Another interminable wait until finally the arm descends toward the mat for a third time, but . . . what have we here? Von Erich, well-rested after his nap, manages to lift a shoulder off the mat. The referee stops the count! Hennig is livid.

You can guess the rest. With the crowd encouraging him, Von Erich manages to launch an offensive of his own. Of course he is unable to pin Hennig, but he settles for a double-countout decision and retains his title.

Afterward, a few Hennig sympathizers tell me Von Erich was pinned for two full minutes. I didn't clock it, but from where Hennig sat it must have felt like two days.

And people wonder how wrestlers turn angry and bitter.

You must give Von Erich credit. He managed to steal another title match without any help from his family. Maybe Von Erich truly has a hotline to the Big Man upstairs; it certainly required divine intervention for Hennig not to walk away with the Intercontinental championship that night.

(Continued on page 58)

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A—ON— ASSIGNMENT

BY LIZ HUNTER



There's no doubting it: The impostor Sting at "Halloween Havoc" was Barry Windham. Liz Hunter says she wouldn't mind if there were two Stings, but not this way!

ONE STING WOULD be any woman's dream. But two Stings? Honey, bring on the ambulance! We'd be talking mass coronaries.

Unfortunately, that wasn't the case at "Halloween Havoc," when one of the strangest magic acts I've ever seen led to definitely the strangest result of any match I've ever seen.

Just to recap:

Sting, the NWA World champion, was wrestling Sid Vicious, a molten mass of rock, in the main event of "Halloween Havoc" on October 27 in Chicago. The UIC Pavilion was the scene, and the joint was jumping.

Sid outwrestled Sting most of the way, but Sting kept on digging deep to escape the most unescapable situations. Finally, the match went outside the ring for the umpteenth time and, for a second, it looked like it might never return.

Ric Flair and Arn Anderson, Vicious' Four Horsemen pals, came out to lend Sid a hand, but Vicious headed down the runway for the dressing room. Sting tore after him. They returned moments later, first Vicious, then Sting.

Sting looked hungry and mad. Vicious looked like he had just seen his maker.

Vicious climbed into the ring. Sting went after him. Sting tried to slam Vicious, but his legs collapsed under him. Vicious fell on top of him for the pin. Balloons

(Continued on page 60)

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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

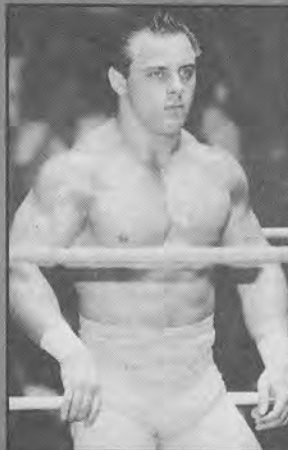
Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



SWEET DADDY SIKI

The legendary Siki, who wrestled as both a fan favorite and a rulebreaker, has finally retired from the mat wars. He currently performs as a country singer at nightclubs in Toronto, and has joined forces with Ron

Hutchison in opening a pro wrestling training center at Sully's Gym in Toronto. "It will be good to get back on the mat again," said Siki. "If my students turn out to be half as good as I was, watch out, baby!"



DYNAMITE KID

Since Davey Boy Smith has returned to the WWF, many fans have been wondering if Dynamite Kid will also return to reunite The British Bulldogs. Kid says that probably will never happen.

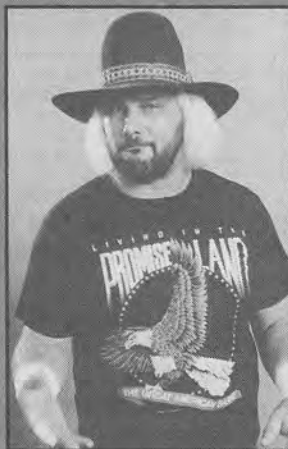
"I'm concentrating on wrestling only in Japan and Canada," said Dynamite, who still boasts an outstanding physique. "I've been teaming with Davey's brother, Johnny, and I'm extremely happy with the way things are going right now."



BOB GEIGEL

This former NWA president and veteran wrestler continues to be involved in the sport. Geigel, who held the Texas title during his outstanding career, still promotes cards occasionally in Kansas City, Kansas. He also is a member

of the security department at Kansas City's Woodlands racetrack. "I got used to keeping things secure during my NWA days," laughed Geigel. "I have less problems with the horses than with most wrestlers."



BOBBY JAGGERS

Jagers, who once formed The Kansas Jayhawks with Dutch Mantel, has retired from the sport. The "Hangman" has hung up his noose and is now working at a meat-packing plant in Missouri. Jagers refuses to discuss his

reasons for quitting, but isn't ruling out a return to the ring in the future. "Working with these slabs of meat makes a man tough," said the always-arrogant Jagers. "When I come back, I'll call myself the 'Butcher'!"

INSIDE WRESTLING

175

CAPSULE PROFILE

CHRIS ADAMS

CHRIS ADAMS IS one of the most popular wrestlers in Texas history (*"These fans have given me a tremendous amount of support"*) ... As a teenager in Stratford-on-Avon, England, established a pen-pal relationship with Kevin Von Erich (*"I had always been an admirer of the Von Erichs"*) ... Two years after his pro debut, traveled to the U.S. (*"I needed to test myself against the very best"*) ... Made his American debut in Los Angeles in 1980 (*"Right away, I discovered how different American wrestling was"*) ... Feuded with Rick Martel and Rip Oliver in the Pacific Northwest (*"Those blokes tried to tear me apart"*) ... Left the PNW in late 1983 to wrestle in the World Class area (*"I had done plenty up in the Northwest"*) ... Struck up a natural friendship with the Von Erichs (*"They accepted me as one of their own"*) ... Feuded with Jim Garvin and acquired the services of Garvin's ex-valet, Sunshine (*"That was quite amusing"*) ... After firing Sunshine, took Gary Hart as his manager (*"I thought Hart's alleged genius might do something for my career"*) ... Broke away from the Von Erichs and began an intense feud with Kevin (*"I discovered very quickly that if you're against a Von Erich, you can't win"*) ... Teamed with Gino Hernandez to capture the World Class tag team title from The Fantastics (*"We meshed ex-*

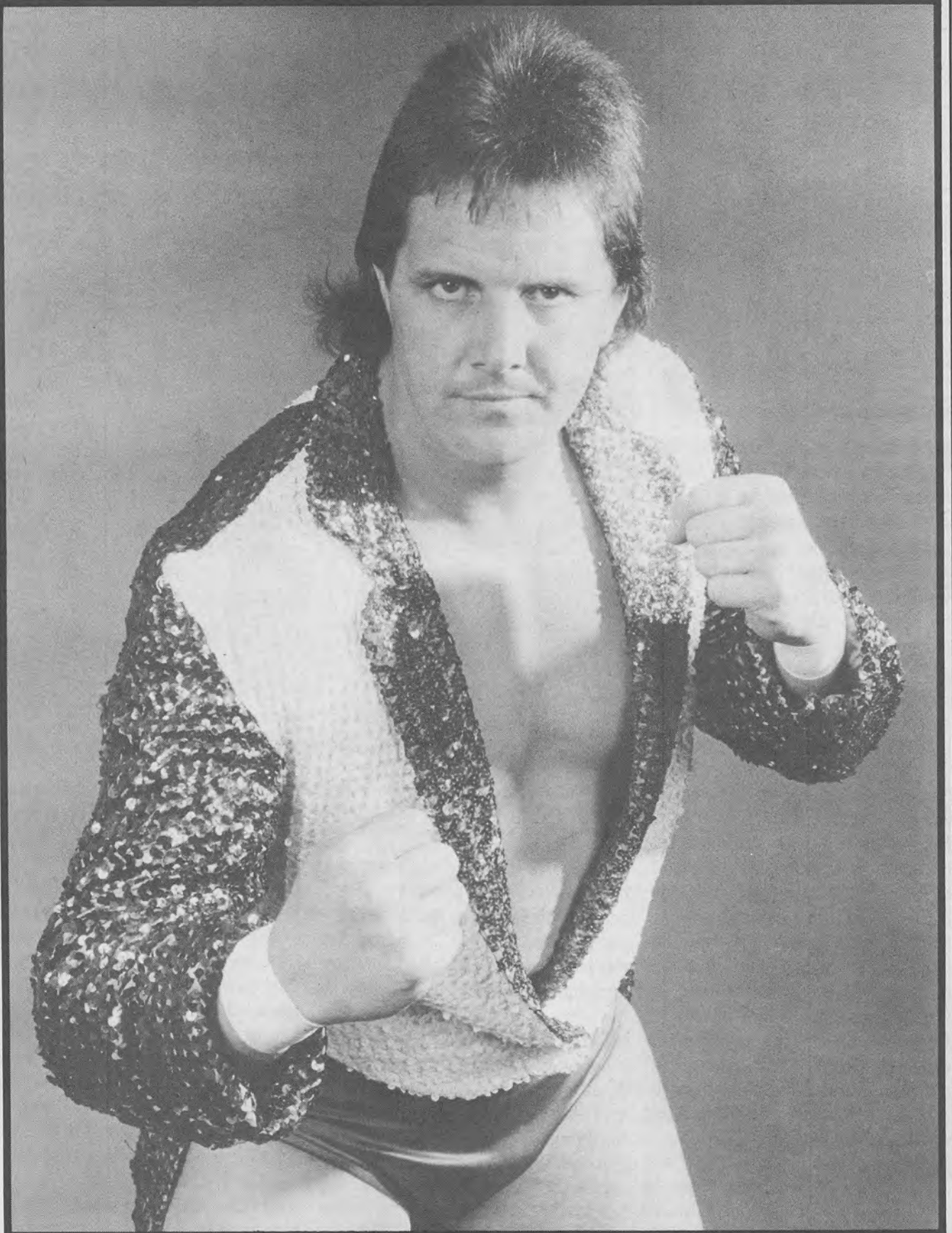


The first graduate of Chris Adams' wrestling school, Steve Austin thought he could make a name for himself by turning against his teacher. He's succeeded in making a name for himself, but he's paid a dear price.

tremely well together") ... Lost the belts to Kevin and Kerry Von Erich and got their heads shaved (*"Completely embarrassing"*) ... Hernandez shockingly turned against Adams by throwing an irritating black liquid in his eyes ... Adams, temporarily blinded, returned to England (*"It was the most horrifying time of my life"*) ... Made a miraculous recovery, returned to Texas, and, on July 4, 1986, won the World Class title from Rick Rude (*"Triumph after tragedy"*) ... After losing the belt to Black Bart by default, left World Class for the UWF (*"The UWF promised a lot of excitement"*) ... Teamed with Terry Taylor to capture the UWF tag team title in a tournament ... Taylor cost them the belts

when he kicked Adams' foot off the ropes during a match against Sting and Rick Steiner (*"I couldn't believe what was going on!"*) ... A bloody feud with Taylor ensued (*"I had to make him pay!"*) ... The feud resumed when Adams returned to World Class late in 1987, where Taylor was also wrestling (*"Taylor was chicken, so to speak"*) ... In 1989, Adams had his wife, Toni, as a partner in an ongoing feud with Gen. Skandor Akbar's men (*"Toni is brave and willing to stand by my side"*) ... For most of 1990, Toni and Chris have been involved in an intense feud with Steve Austin and Jeannie, Adams' ex-wife (*"Those two don't belong in the same sport as us"*)

CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP



CHRIS ADAMS

BACK ISSUES OF



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March 1988/Stories include: Bigelow, Adams, Koloff, Honky Tonk, Freebirds.
April 1988/Stories include: Luger-Flair, Ultimate Warrior, Andre-Hogan-DiBiase.
May 1988/Stories include: Zbyszko, DiBiase, Warriors, Rockers, Fritz Von.
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July 1988/Stories include: Hogan-Savage-DiBiase, Kerry & Hayes, Sting.
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July 1990/Stories include: Steiners, Sting, Warrior & Hogan, Earthquake.
August 1990/Stories include: Luger-Flair, Hogan, Warrior, Taylor.
September 1990/Stories include: Hogan, Duggan, JYD, Adams, Horsemen.
October 1990/Stories include: Sting, Legion of Doom, Bushwhackers, Gigante.
November 1990/Stories include: Flair, Hogan, Vicious, Slaughter, Orient.
December 1990/Stories include: Hogan, Sting, Kerry, Corrette, Zbyszko.

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CINCINNATI, OH By Stephanie Toller



CURT HENNIG
vs.
KERRY VON ERICH



In this bout for Kerry's Intercontinental title, Hennig took early control, but Von Erich gained the advantage with a "tornado punch." After Kerry threw Hennig out of the ring, they continued fighting on the floor. Hennig heaved Kerry into the ringpost and climbed back in the ring. Kerry was counted out, but retained the title.

OTHER BOUTS: The Legion of Doom & The Ultimate Warrior defeated Demolition ... Sgt. Slaughter beat Nikolai Volkoff by submission ... Hercules defeated Marty Jannetty ... The Barbarian beat Tito Santana ... Pez Whatley defeated Paul Diamond ... Dustin Rhodes beat Steve Lombardi.

BRISTOL, TN By C.J. Barnette



THE BARBARIAN
vs.
BIG BOSSMAN



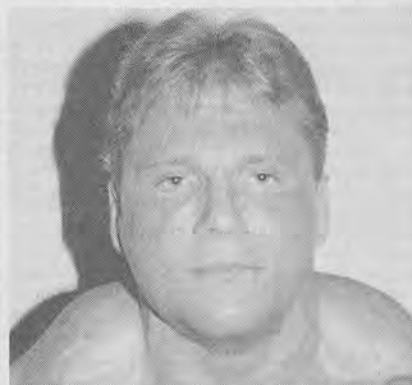
The momentum swung back and forth between the two until Bossman tried for a splash in the corner and missed. Then Barbarian clotheslined Bossman out of the ring and rammed his back into the ringpost. When they returned to the ring, Barbarian threw Bossman in the corner, but crashed into the turnbuckles when Bossman sidestepped his followup charge. Bossman easily rolled up Barbarian for the pin.

OTHER BOUTS: Sgt. Slaughter defeated Nikolai Volkoff ... The Hart Foundation beat The Honky Tonk Man & Greg Valentine by disqualification ... Warlord pinned Ronnie Garvin ... Davey Boy Smith pinned Haku ... Dustin Rhodes defeated Black Bart ... Pez Whatley beat Bob Bradley.

BURLINGTON, NJ By Paul Verlander



IVAN KOLOFF
vs.
DAVID SAMMARTINO



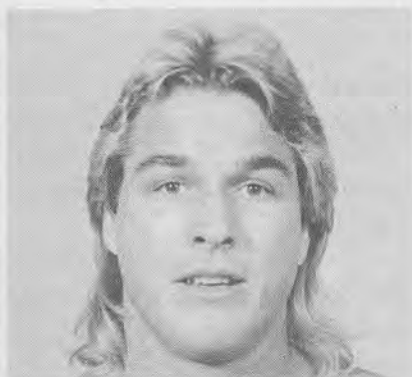
Sammartino took the early lead in this Russian chain match and, after about 10 minutes, he opened up a cut on Koloff's head. However, Koloff's craftiness began to work to his advantage. After David accidentally hit the referee, Koloff dragged him around to three corners. Koloff was then awarded the match because he'd tricked the ref into thinking that he'd touched all four corners.

OTHER BOUTS: Manny Fernandez defeated Wahoo McDaniel ... D.C. Drake and Larry Winters fought to a no-contest ... Cactus Jack and Tony Stetson were both counted out ... Rockin' Rebel pinned Mr. Sandman ... J.T. Smith beat Glen Osbourne ... Michael Bruno defeated Johnny Hot Body.

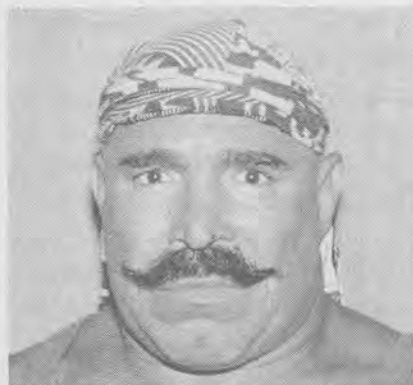
WRESTLING CAPITALS



CHICAGO, IL By Peter Jasen



**TERRY TAYLOR
vs.
THE IRON SHEIK**



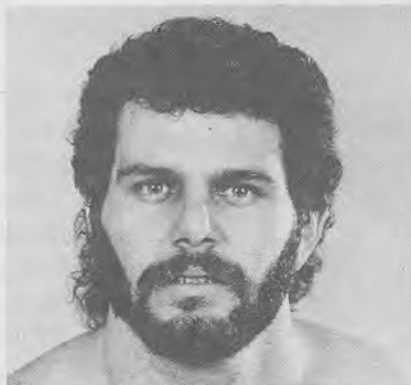
Taylor came out brandishing the American flag, while Sheik waved the Iranian flag. Sheik whacked Taylor over the head with his flagpole, then proceeded to choke Taylor with his own ring robe. Sheik threw Taylor out of the ring and smashed his head on the announcers' table, then hit him with a chair. Taylor gave Sheik much of the same punishment, threw him back in the ring, and finally pinned him with a small package.

OTHER BOUTS: Sting defeated The Black Scorpion ... Ric Flair, Arn Anderson, & Sid Vicious defeated Junkyard Dog, El Gigante, & Brian Pillman ... Rick & Scott Steiner beat The State Patrol ... The Juicer defeated Dutch Mantel ... Dr. X pinned Allen Iron Eagle ... Tim Horner pinned Jonnie Stewart.

DALLAS, TX By Joyce Dillon



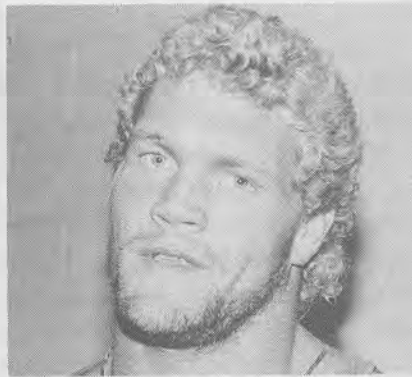
**BILLY TRAVIS
vs.
GARY YOUNG**



These two bitter rivals squared off in an "I quit" match. Several times, it looked like Travis had Young ready to quit, but Young refused to give up. Then something unusual happened: Steve Cox came to ringside, grabbed a microphone, and started saying that he quit. Referee Bronco Lubich thought it was Young who was quitting, so he called for the bell and awarded the match to Travis.

OTHER BOUTS: Steve Cox defeated The California Stud by disqualification ... The Rock 'n' Roll RPMs beat Randy Ricci & Louie Spicoli ... Iceman Parsons beat Skip Young ... Steve Austin pinned Steve Dane ... Steve Simpson, wrestling alone after his partner, Kevin Von Erich, got into a fight with John Tatum, defeated Angel of Death & The California Stud by disqualification.

BALTIMORE, MD By Ray Ney



**SID VICIOUS
vs.
JUNKYARD DOG**



The mighty Vicious, representing The Four Horsemen, was barely tested by Junkyard Dog, who remains determined to drive the Horsemen out of the NWA. At first, Vicious seemed perplexed by JYD's ring style, but he eventually began to assert his natural strength advantage. Vicious scored a convincing pinfall victory, and looked more than ever like a man ready to take the World title.

OTHER BOUTS: Brian Pillman pinned The Iron Sheik ... The Master Blasters defeated The Southern Boys ... J.W. Storm pinned Tommy Rich ... Lex Luger defeated Stan Hansen by disqualification ... Rick & Scott Steiner beat The Nasty Boys ... Doom battled Ric Flair & Arn Anderson to a double-disqualification ... NWA World champion Sting pinned The Black Scorpion.



Matt Brock's **PLAIN SPEAKING**

DALLAS, TX: Got off the plane. Caught a ride to the Sportatorium. Walked up to the box office to get my pass. Went inside. Had a few words with Kevin Von Erich. The family is doing fine, he told me. Kerry, Kevin's brother and the WWF Intercontinental champion, is doing better than ever. Okay. Walked into the arena. Grabbed a program. Saw that in one of the featured matches, Chris Adams, Toni Adams, and Steve Dane were scheduled to wrestle Steve Austin, Jeannie Clark, and The California Stud. Walked to the bathroom. Washed my hands, combed what's left of my hair, and left. Walked out to the Sportatorium lobby. Picked up a

phone. Called a cab. Got a ride back to my hotel, sat in the lounge for the next four hours, and wondered what the heck is going on with this sport of ours. Toni and Jeannie are still going at it? Well, they're gonna have to go at it without Matt Brock.

ORLANDO, FL: From one circus to another. Jeannie and Toni yesterday (still don't know who won the damn thing. If you care, send for a back issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated Weekly*), Battle Cat today. Battle Cat. Don't any of these WWF wrestlers have names anymore? The Ultimate Warrior. The "Texas Tornado." "Mr. Perfect." The "Million-Dollar Man." It's gotten to the point where "Curt Hennig" is Mr. Perfect's nickname! Darn fools. Well, here's one discovery: The wrestling in the WWF isn't all that bad these days. The Road Warriors (why do they bother to insist on calling them The Legion of Doom?) and The Ultimate Warrior have been wrestling in six-man tag team matches against Demolition, and they've been dandies! Hawk, Animal, and Warrior have won almost every one (and the Warrior's been getting the pins), but this feud keeps burning red-hot. Meanwhile, Kerry Von Erich's had his hands full defending the I-C strap against Curt Hennig. Both these guys really know how to wrestle. Three or four years ago, when Kerry was still in his prime, *before* the motorcycle accident, this would've been a classic for the ages; as it is, it's much better than most of the rest of the grappling in the WWF. But there's something I'm hearing about a giant egg that's really getting me worried.

COONS RAPIDS, MN: For those of you who don't live in the Twin Cities, Coons Rapids really exists. It's a suburb of Minneapolis, a town of about 35,000 right on the Mississippi River. Kind of cold, even in October, but pretty good suds no matter what time you're here. I'll hit the saloons later. Right here, it's Larry Zbyszko vs. Tommy Jammer for the AWA World title, and I don't have



JEANNIE VS. TONI ADAMS

Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor

to tell you what happened, do I. Zbyszko, the sneaky coward, escaped—and I mean *escaped*—with the belt for the umpteenth time. Forget the rules when it comes to wrestling Zbyszko; they'll get you nowhere. Hear that, Tommy Jammer, you miserable fool? It'll get you *nowhere*. Anyway, I talked to Zbyszko after the matches



LARRY ZBYSZKO

and he's just having a great time up here in Minnesota. "I just love Scandinavian women, and they love me," Zbyszko said. Asked him about wrestling. Zbyszko replied: "Larryland, bud, that's what it's all about. Larryland." Zbyszko, as usual, babbles and babbles and has no concern for anything but himself. And, as he said, "I'm still counting my million dollars." That would be the million dollars "Larry's Legends" won in the Team Challenge Series. Zbyszko still hasn't shared the wealth. "Maybe I'll add a rollercoaster ride to Larryland," he said. Maybe Zbyszko should get out of his dream world and start wrestling. The integrity of the AWA World title, already in trouble, is slipping through his fingers like a palmful of sand.

CHICAGO, IL: So the "Bad Man From Borger" still has something left in that ol' body of his. Stan Hansen shocked the world by beating Lex Luger for the NWA U.S. title, and somewhere, Bruiser Brody is smiling. Hansen hasn't held a major singles title in this country since he beat Rick Martel for the AWA World strap back in 1985—that was at the Byrne Meadowlands Arena in New Jersey, for those with short memories—and this may have been the most incredible win of his career. A lesson in longevity: The wrestlers who last in this sport aren't the ones with the best bodies. They're the *tough* ones. They're the ones who can withstand the most punishment. Look down the list: Nick Bockwinkel, Dusty Rhodes, Fritz Von Erich, Verge Gagne. They all lasted long past their primes, and they all could take it—and dish it out, too. Prediction: Lex Luger will be forgotten in about 10-15 years. Now that's not a bad career, but some of these guys go on for ages. Hansen's only been around for about 17 years, but he's still going strong. Yeah, he couldn't care less about the rules, never could, and maybe Luger caught a few bad breaks. But I'm sick of Luger's whining. Hansen's the U.S. champ, case closed. And speaking of closed cases, well, don't shut the door on Sid Vicious, even if he didn't come out of it with Sting's bounty. Sting's still the NWA World champion, no thanks to an amazing plot by The Four Horsemen that almost worked, but he's got a lot of trouble ahead. And I don't mean The Black Scorpion. □

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TERRY TAYLOR: “MY PAST IS MY WORST OPPONENT”

Terry Taylor made the worst mistake of his career when he sold out for money and a rooster's image in the WWF. Now the old Taylor is back in the NWA and back to his old ways: no gimmicks, no clucking, and one of the most solid scientific styles in the federation!

By Dave Rosenbaum



Terry Taylor is working hard to reestablish himself as a serious contender, but ...

THE INDIGNITY OF being a wrestler disguised as a chicken is certainly too much for *anyone* to handle. Selling out for money is one thing; for Terry Taylor, dressing up in a Halloween costume all year long was a lot of cock-a-doodle-doo.

But we all make mistakes. To err is human, even though we regret it later on.

"The trick," said Taylor, "is nipping your mistake in the bud and going on with your life. Yeah, I made a pretty bad mistake when I signed with the WWF, but the money was great and they said they'd give me an opportunity to go after a major title.

"All I got," Taylor added with his head bowed, "was a chance to cluck. That Red Rooster thing was the worst move I ever made."

And the pay, when compared with Taylor's loss of self-esteem, was just chicken feed.

"I sold out my fans and, worst of all, I sold out myself," Taylor said. "I wast-



... The Red Rooster still haunts him. It's a part of his past he deeply regrets.



Taylor hiptosses Stan Lane. In the WWF, Taylor's considerable scientific ability was overshadowed by his Rooster Image.



Taylor dropkicks Bill Irwin en route to victory at "Halloween Havoc" (above). In the UWF in 1986, Taylor was a feared competitor, here executing a figure-four armlock on Dick Slater (below).



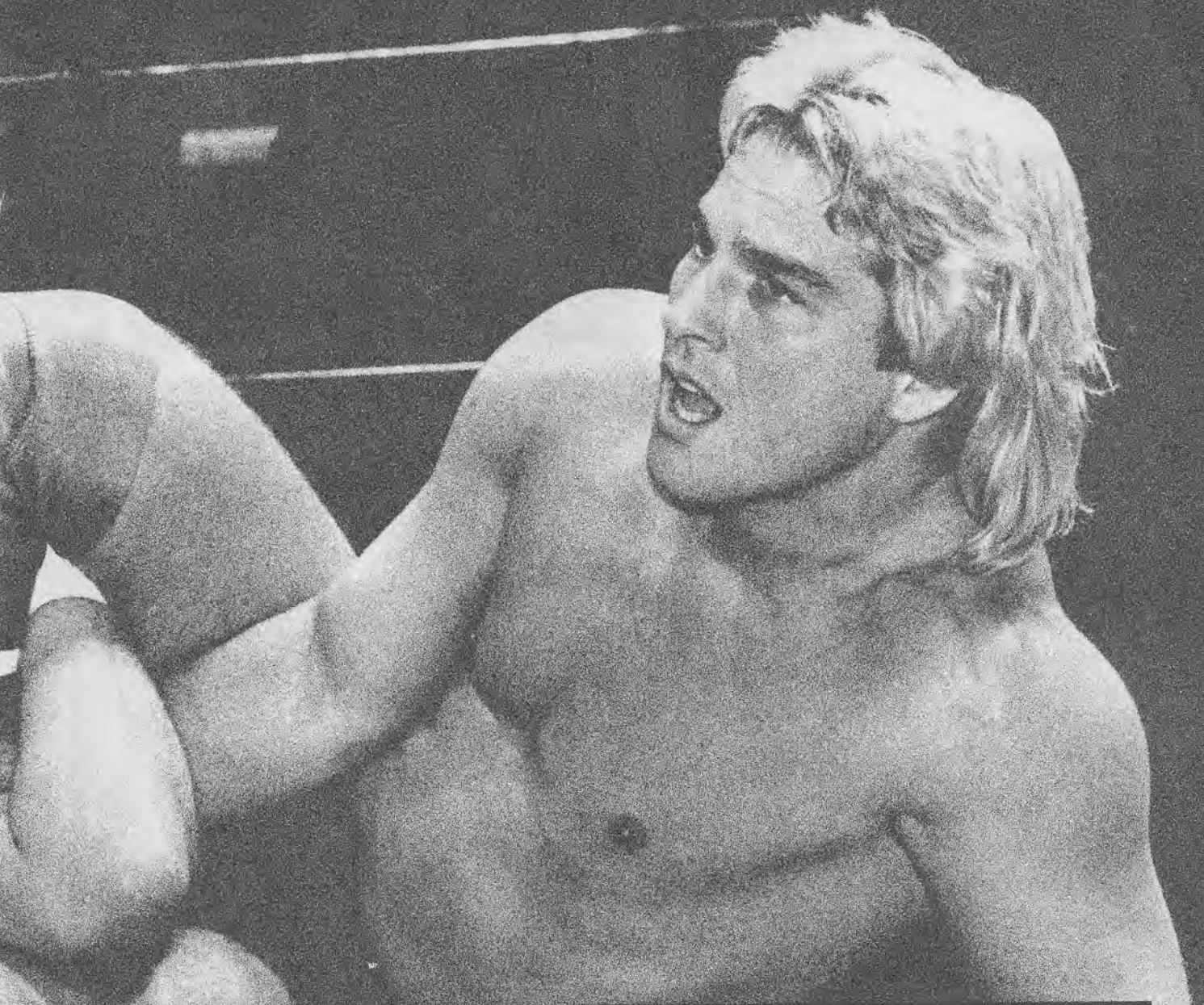
Taylor's own past has been more of a threat than The Iron Sheik. When will his detractors ever cut him a break?



ed valuable time in my career, time when I could've been making an impact. Let me tell you something, my past is my worst opponent."

Because he still pays for his mistakes every time he steps into an NWA ring. Fans heckle him; actually, they cluck at him. They taunt him with chants of "rooster." He receives eggs in the mail.

"People send old WWF ticket stubs along with the eggs and—would you believe this?—ask for refunds," Taylor said. "I've got a sense of humor as good as the next guy, but that's just cruel and inhuman. Just leave me



alone. Let me get on with my life. I'm not the first person to do something stupid."

Taylor, one of the finest scientific wrestlers in the sport, turned himself into the laughingstock of the WWF. Meanwhile, Taylor's friends in other federations couldn't believe what they were seeing.

"When we were in the UWF, Terry was one of the guys nobody ever wanted to wrestle," Steve Williams said. "He just had so much talent. Some smart people in this sport tabbed him as a future world champion, and I didn't doubt it for a minute."

He was also a nice guy whose career, prior to his move to the WWF, took a turn for the worse with a change to evil in 1987 and 1988.

"That was also a big mistake," Taylor said.

In Taylor's case, making up for his mistakes meant shedding the rooster persona, leaving the WWF, and getting back to his roots in the NWA. He was welcomed with open arms.

"We've always thought very highly of Terry and felt he had tremendous ability," NWA Executive Vice President Jim Herd said. "We were more than willing to give him a chance to start all

over again."

Unfortunately, a person's past can never go away. Taylor has also had to overcome his own lack of confidence. He started at the bottom in the NWA. He's now working his way up, but the advancement on the ladder of contention is coming slowly. He received a "Halloween Havoc" match—against Bill Irwin.

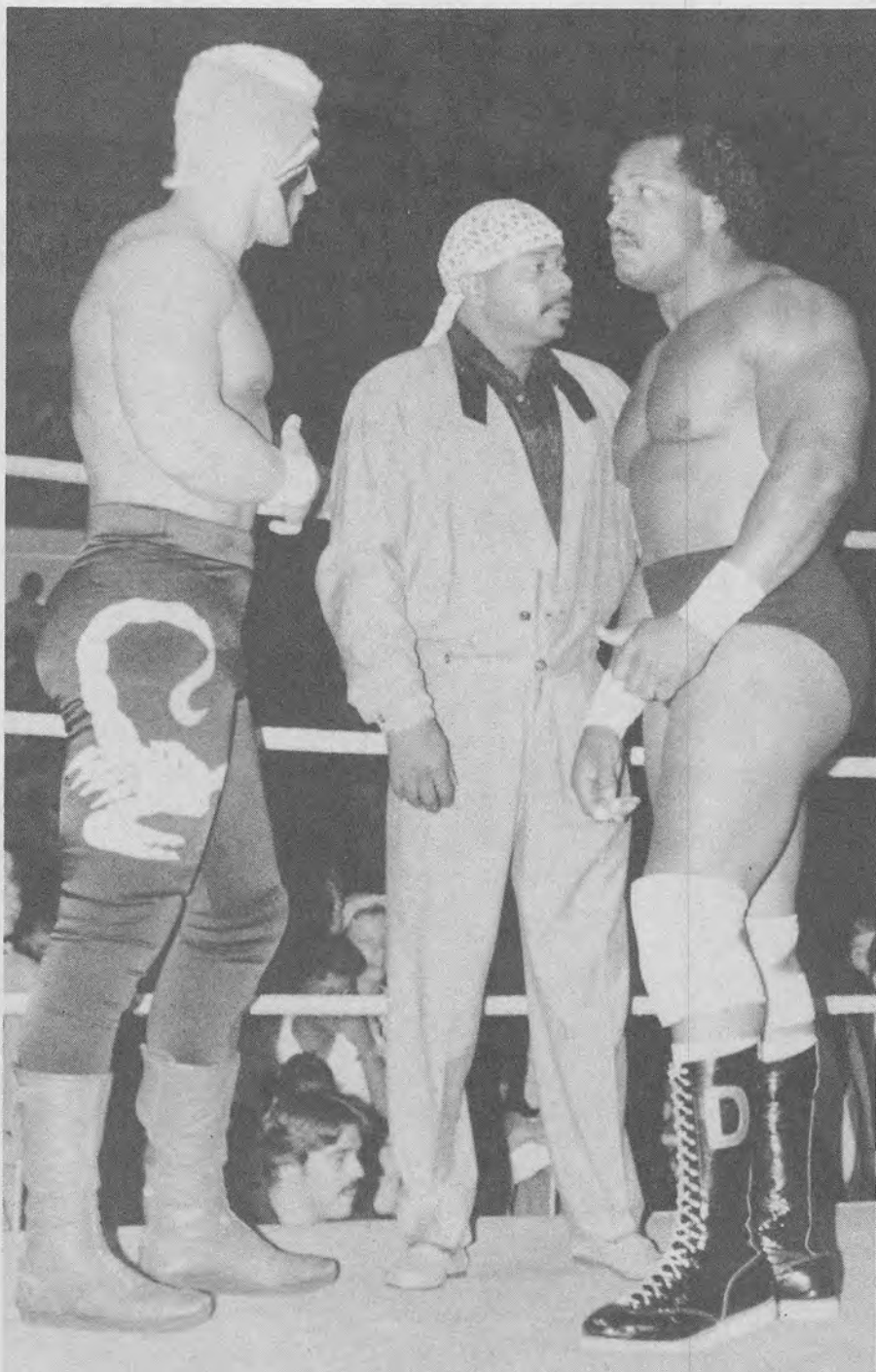
"Forget about the opponent for a minute," Taylor said cheerfully. "Look, it was nice of the NWA to give me an opportunity to show my stuff at 'Halloween Havoc.' That's a national event,

(Continued on page 62)

Exclusive:

WHY DID STING TEAM WITH DOOM'S RON SIMMONS?

Something incredible happened on October 7 in Charlottesville, Virginia: When Butch Reed failed to show for a scheduled match, Sting took his place and teamed with Ron Simmons against Ric Flair and Arn Anderson. Why did he do it? We have the answers!



By Dave Rosenbaum

RON SIMMONS KNEW it was over, but he had to remain confident. He was going to walk in the ring like he always did, scowl like he always did, and look like a champion. He was going to stare down Ric Flair and Arn Anderson and say, "Beat me—if you can."

Even if he had no chance.

He had waited as long as he could for his partner, Butch Reed, to arrive for their NWA World tag team title defense against Flair and Anderson in Charlottesville, Virginia. When Reed didn't arrive, manager Teddy Long explained the situation to the NWA officials on hand.

"Wrestle without him," the officials warned, "or forfeit the title."

Simmons immediately realized that either choice was a sacrifice. His only chance to save Doom's NWA World tag team title was to get himself disqualified.

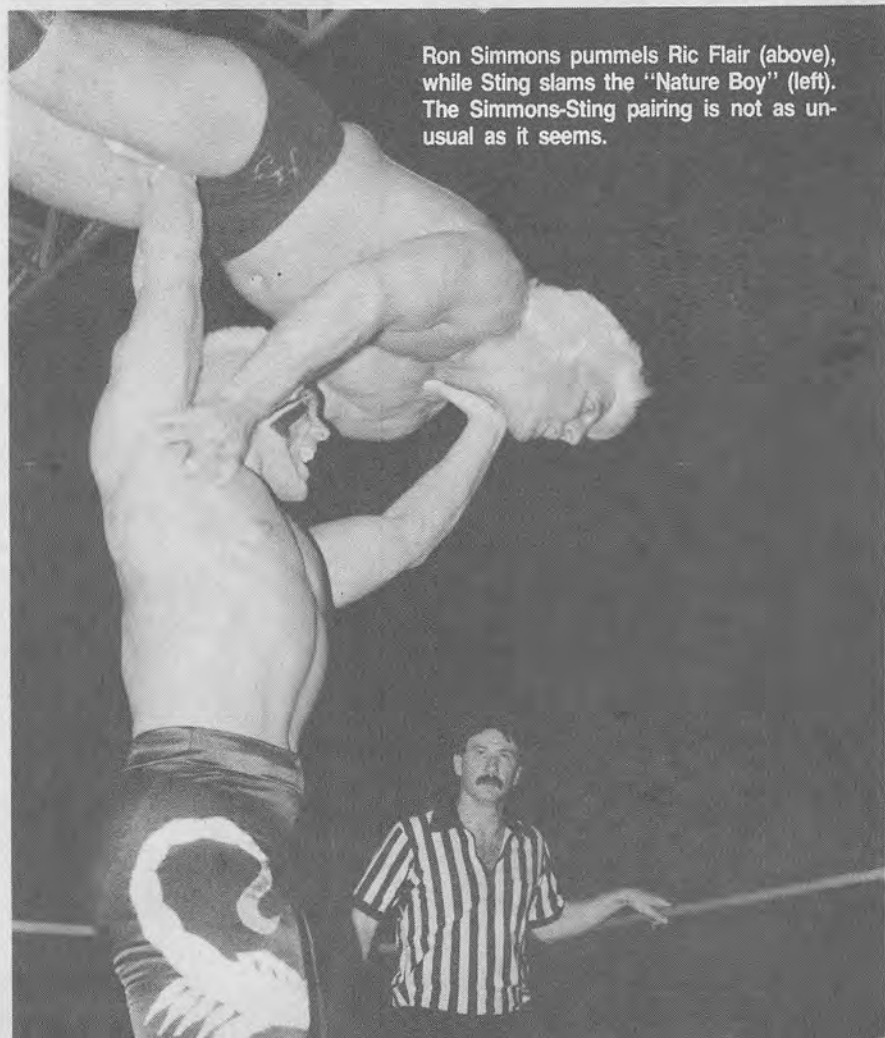
Then something incredible happened.

Moments after Simmons walked into the ring (like he always did), scowled (like he always did), and stared down Flair and Anderson, NWA World champion Sting came out and made an incredible offer.

"I'll be your partner," Sting said.

The crowd gasped. Flair and Anderson were shocked. Simmons looked at Long; Long looked at Simmons. They didn't know how to respond. Sting talked about how he hated The Four Horsemen and would do anything to get his paws on Flair and Anderson.

Simmons and Long had a brief meeting; really, they had no choice but to accept Sting's unusual offer. So they did. Sting pinned Flair. The World tag team



Ron Simmons pummels Ric Flair (above), while Sting slams the "Nature Boy" (left). The Simmons-Sting pairing is not as unusual as it seems.



Had Simmons gone it alone (left), he probably would have lost Doom's World tag team title. Sting makes sure that Flair doesn't bail out (bottom).

title didn't change hands. Championship history *wasn't* made, though a little piece of wrestling history was.

"Most remarkable thing I'd ever seen," said Anderson, who couldn't believe his eyes as he watched Sting and Simmons exchange a high-five after the match.

He'll probably never see it again. Sting and Simmons walked back to their dressing rooms separately. Their momentary alliance was over. Sting's work was done.

But questions were left unanswered. Sure, Sting hates the Horsemen. He also hates Doom. Sting and Lex Luger have wrestled Flair and Anderson in numerous tag team matches; they've also made it known that they'd love to win the World tag belts from Doom.

And remember: Teaming with Simmons went against all of Sting's principles. He aligned himself with evil.

Why did he do it?

"Because I hate Flair and Anderson far more than I hate Simmons, and I didn't want them to win the title," Sting said. "I knew that if Simmons wrestled on his own, he'd have a hard time even getting himself disqualified. I didn't want those belts in the hands of the Horsemen. No way."

Maybe he's telling the truth. After all, the "Stinger" has never been one to disguise his motives. He's truthful and forthright. Sting doesn't need deception.

And yet, there is reason to believe that Sting had another motive.

Friendship.

Long before Simmons and Reed put on their masks and called themselves Doom, Simmons was a fan favorite. He was an all-America football player



who took his all-American attitude in the ring with him.

"He was a good man," Sting said. "I'm not sure what happened to him. Maybe frustration set in."

Sting and Simmons were good friends. Although they rarely teamed, they were often seen together after the matches, celebrating a big win or talking through a tough loss.

"There were a lot of times back then when we helped each other," Sting said.

Then Simmons suddenly and shockingly turned bad. Sting was hurt by the change. From that point on, any words between the two were soaked with bitterness.

But Sting never forgets a friend. He also never gives up on one.

So when Reed failed to show for that match in Charlottesville (it was later learned that he had suffered an unspecified injury in training and could not contact Simmons or Long to tell them), Sting grabbed the opportunity. It was an opportunity not only to battle the Horsemen, but to rekindle his friendship with Simmons. He proved that he never forgets a friend.

And, deep down, Sting harbors a glimmer of hope that his show of good will will somehow convert Simmons back to his old ways. He knows it's a longshot. He also knows it's worth a chance.

And Sting also knows that, despite all that had passed between the two of them, he owed Simmons his help. Simmons was on the verge of losing the title he worked so hard to win. Sting, with a champion's compassion for another champion, felt he had to save him.

It's unfortunate that Sting's gesture of friendship did not have lasting effect. But maybe—just maybe—it planted a seed of sportsmanship in Simmons that will someday sprout and grow and flourish. □



Flair has Simmons down, but seems more concerned with making a point to Sting (above). When Simmons (below, attempting to break Anderson's grasp) was a fan favorite, he and Sting were friends.

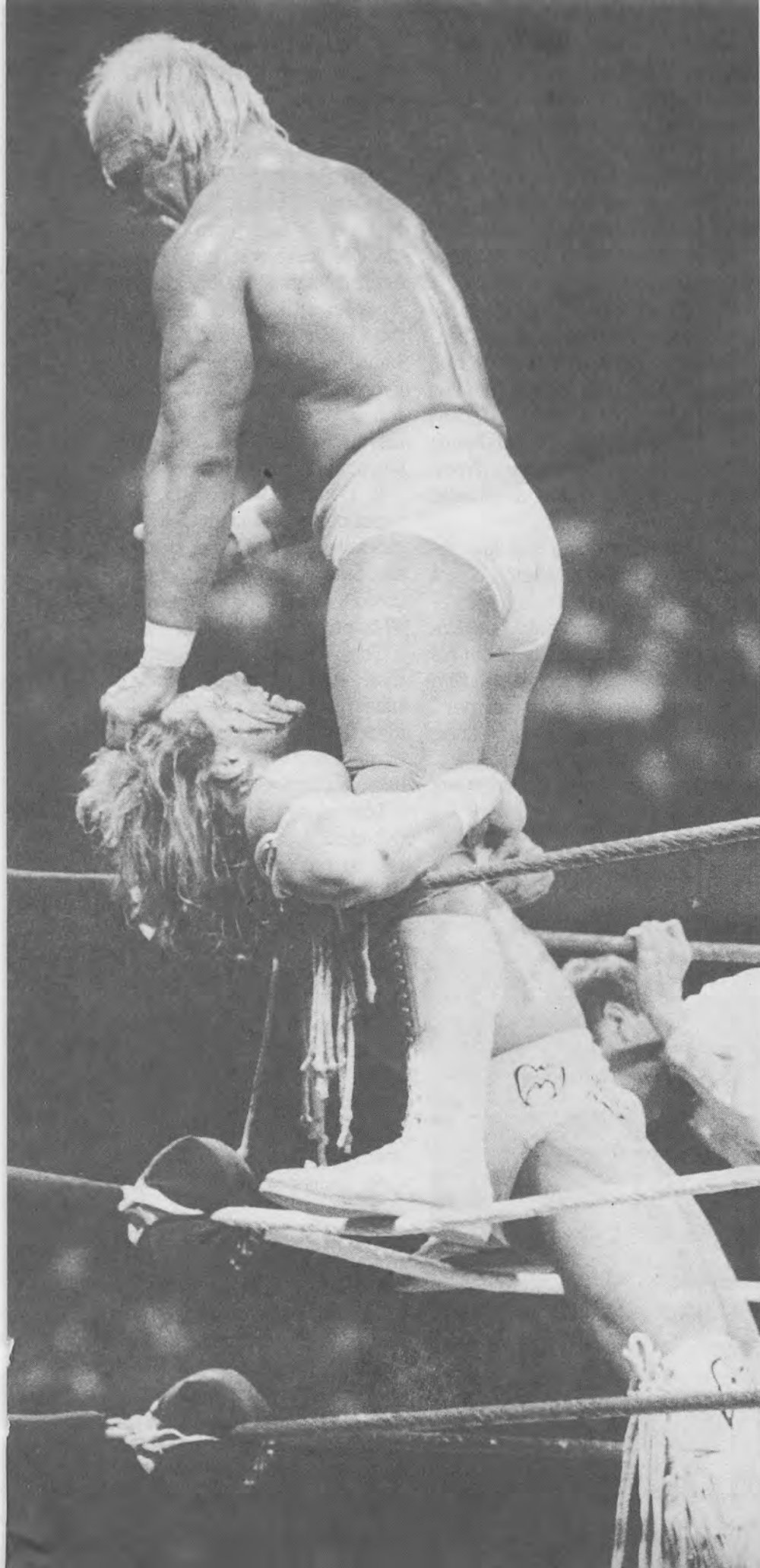


CAN HULK HOGAN MAKE IT

3?

*Our Plan For
The "Hulkster"
To Regain The
WWF World Belt*

Hulk Hogan has waited too long for his chance to regain the WWF World title. The Ultimate Warrior is hiding from the "Hulkster," and now it's time for Hogan to make his move and capture the belt for a third time!



BE PATIENT. WAIT. He'll beat himself. He's burning himself out. He's prone to mistakes.

It's all good advice for Hulk Hogan, who's been standing by while The Ultimate Warrior continues to hold and (occasionally) defend the WWF World title.

The title that was Hogan's for over five years.

The title that will always be synonymous with the "Hulkster."

The title that WWF President Jack Tunney won't give him a chance to regain.

If Hogan is patient and waits, there's a better-than-average chance that the Warrior, a haphazard wrestler, will cost himself the title. He is burning himself out in a lengthy series of six-man tag matches with The Legion of Doom against Demolition.

The WWF almost certainly has a Warrior vs. Hogan rematch planned for WrestleMania VII at the Los Angeles Coliseum. They've had it in mind ever since the Warrior pinned Hogan for the belt at WrestleMania VI.

But Hogan doesn't want to wait until WrestleMania, and he shouldn't. Although he's sat by patiently in the months since WrestleMania VI, he is secretly burning inside.

He's mad at Tunney for denying him a rematch.

He's mad at the Warrior for not demanding that the federation give him a rematch.

He's even occasionally mad at himself for being so understanding at a time when understanding simply isn't in order.

He wants the belt back. He wants be the first man to hold the WWF World title three times. He's

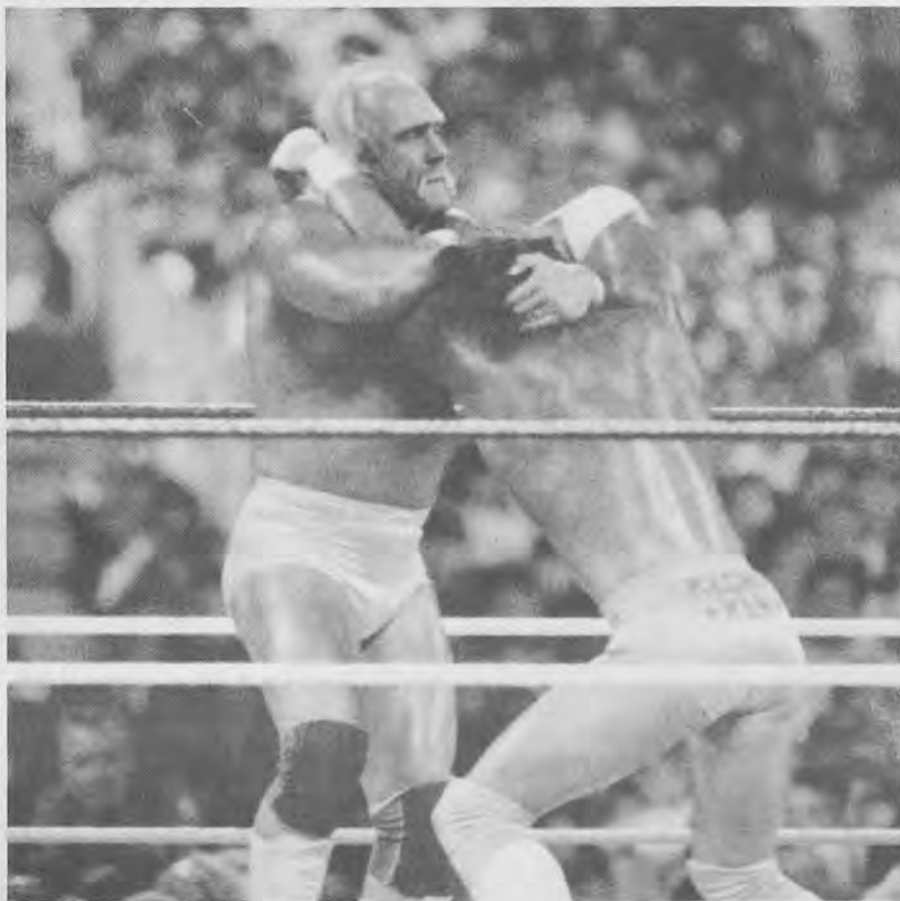
At WrestleMania VI, Hulk Hogan lost an opportunity to turn back the challenge of The Ultimate Warrior. Now the "Hulkster" wants the belt back, but there are forces at work that may prevent his reascension to the throne.

aching to complete the hat trick.
We can help him.

Consider the straight-ahead approach. Hogan has always been able to get what he wants by going right after it.



Hogan displayed some surprising scientific skills in his winning encounter with Stan Hansen (above). He needs those skills if he's to regain the belt; he can't overpower Warrior the way he overpowered Randy Savage (below).



Get in the ring, Hulk. Grab the microphone, tough guy. Challenge the Warrior. Challenge his manhood. Tell him he's scared.

Don't worry about the fans; they'll always love you. Given the choice between you and the Warrior, the choice will always be "Hulkamania." It's a fact of wrestling life.

The direct approach is probably Hogan's best approach to the title.

Patience isn't always a virtue. WrestleMania VII is still months away. And what if Hogan *doesn't* beat the Warrior at WrestleMania VII? Will he have to wait for WrestleMania VIII to get a second rematch?

Of course, winning the first rematch won't be a problem... not if he listens to us.

Training is important, but Hogan's never had to worry about his physique. He never enters the ring in anything less than top shape.

Power isn't a problem, either.

It's also not the solution. Overpowering the Warrior isn't easy; it's also not worth the effort, even if you're Hulk Hogan.

The key is *science*. The Warrior has an almost total lack of scientific ability. Hogan, as the world found out shortly after WrestleMania VII, has a scientific repertoire, even though he rarely displays it. Japanese fans are still talking about the "Hulkster's" bout against Stan Hansen on April 13, 1990, in Tokyo. Hogan won that bout by pinfall, a pinfall gained by virtue of his use of his (admittedly limited) scientific repertoire.

If Hogan can expand on that repertoire while maintaining his incredible strength and desire—not an easy task, by the way—he could easily overmatch the Warrior.

The Warrior has never had to deal with a wrestler who combines incredible strength with solid scientific skills. Come to think of it, there aren't too many men like that anywhere in the sport.

Lex Luger may be the closest to the ideal, but he tends to lose his mental focus during big matches. Sting has the aerial and scientific skills, but he can be overpowered.

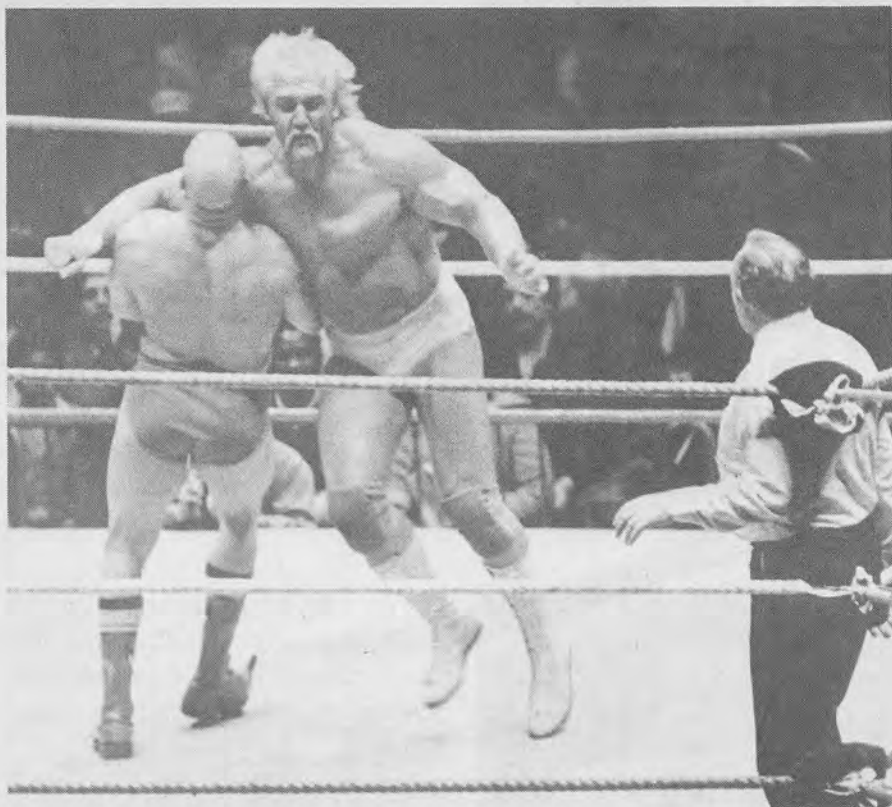
Imagine combining Luger's power and Sting's skills into one complete wrestler!

Of course, it would be impossible for Hogan to become that man at this stage of his career. He has slowed down. Injuries have hampered his skills, and you certainly won't ever see the "Hulkster" execute something like the "Stinger splash."

Still, it wouldn't take much for Hogan to become the kind of man the Warrior can't handle.

The equation is simple: Strength and desire plus an expanded scientific repertoire equals a third WWF World title reign.

Is Hogan ready to take up the challenge? Mentally he is, to be sure. And physically? Hogan has wrestled infrequently in recent



Nearly seven years ago, Hogan began his first World title reign with a victory over The Iron Sheik (above). For Hogan to dump Warrior the same way (below), he'll have to be in peak condition both mentally and physically.

months, but he hasn't taken a complete leave from the ring. He wrestled enough to keep his skills sharp, and rested enough to remain fresh and ready for action.

Hogan is definitely ready for the Warrior. And the Warrior might not be ready for him.

"Warrior's had it too easy since WrestleMania," one WWF wrestler said. "Rick Rude was a piece of cake, and this six-man tag team stuff is nonsense. A champion has to stay sharp. The thing about Hogan is that he always wrestled the top competition available. There hasn't been much competition for the Warrior, and he's been avoiding Hogan."

"The best way to stay sharp," Lou Thesz agreed, "is to wrestle the best. If I was Hogan, I'd catch the Warrior now while he's vulnerable. Now's the time."

The message to Hogan is clear: Go for it—now! □



Introducing . . .

THE *INSIDE WRESTLING* ALL-ANNOYING TEAM

IT'S BEEN A long week. You've put in a hard, aggravating 40 (or 50 or 60) hours at work, or put up with teachers and fellow students for five endless days at school. It's Saturday morning, and your favorite wrestling program appears on your TV screen. Finally, a chance to settle down and enjoy your favorite sport in peace.

For a while, anyway. A person pops up on the screen who will soon raise your blood pressure to bursting level. Someone with a big mouth that just won't clam up. Someone so irritating that you nearly hurl your favorite footstool right through your Trinitron.

Don't you wish you could do something about wrestling's worst annoyances? Have no fear, faithful readers. After much consideration, the editors of *Inside Wrestling* have compiled a list of the 10 most irritating people in the sport today. These are the egomaniacs who should be muzzled before they drive even the most tolerant fans insane.

Now, we not-so-proudly present the members of the *Inside Wrestling* All-Annoying team, the undisputed world champions of insipid patter. Here's hoping you get through the article without ripping up the magazine in frustration!

1—Brother Love: This white-suited charlatan first popped up in late-1988 as the WWF's new interview "specialist." A red-faced, bulbous-bellied loudmouth, Brother Love has remained a



Brother Love

focal point of the *Superstars of Wrestling* program ever since.

Nobody knows why.

"I've stopped watching *Superstars*, and I know a lot of my friends feel the same way," said fan Craig Starks of Hanover, Massachusetts. "I can put up with the fact that Love favors rule-breakers. But I can't stand the way the goof screams 'I loooooovve you!' Can't the WWF give the interview segment back to somebody who at least knows something about wrestling?"

Apparently not. If the WWF hasn't

wised up by now, what will it take to finally put this glory-seeking greaseball out to pasture? Maybe his number-one ranking on the All-Annoying Team will help.



Missy Hyatt

2—Missy Hyatt: As a valet, this beautiful blonde was calculating and cunning. As a photo subject, well, she's arguably the most glamorous woman ever to be associated with the sport.

As an announcer, she's the pits.

"Ewwwww, I can't stand Brad Armstrong," squeals Hyatt in her high-

pitched whine during a recent installment of *NWA Main Event*. "He's so icky, with all that long hair and everything. *Yuck!*"

These are the comments of a professional announcer? Not by a longshot. Instead of commenting on the matches, Hyatt usually uses her allotment of air time to talk about her new clothes or hairstyle.

Missy's obvious beauty aside, we wonder how Jim Ross can stand it.



Downtown Bruno

3—*Downtown Bruno*: It's hard to get *really* mad at this emaciated runt of a manager. We don't want to censor him; we just want to *wash* him.

"Of all the people I've ever interviewed, I dread talking to Bruno the most," said USWA announcer Dave Brown. "He spits when he talks. He slobbers when he screams. And how I wish he'd invest in a bottle of mouthwash!"

This sawed-off simpleton of a manager insists he's a trend-setter, however.

"I'm the standard of all the managers in the USWA," insists Bruno, who weighs about 100 pounds dripping wet. "Nobody's ever managed better wrestlers than me. Nobody's cuter than I am."

We can think of a few (thousand) people.

They're the most frustrating personalities in a sport filled with outrageous people. They drive millions of fans crazy every week with their always-open mouths and their abrasive-beyond-belief personalities. They're the *Inside Wrestling* All-Annoying team, and they're finally getting the credit they deserve—for being incredibly irritating!



Gorilla Monsoon

4—*Gorilla Monsoon*: This former wrestler, who was one of the biggest stars in the WWF in the '60s and '70s, *must* have an encyclopedic knowledge of the sport. He's been around so long that he should be considered one of the sport's most informative announcers.

Guess again. Monsoon has established himself as the premier shill in the sport, and a buffoonish one at that. Who will ever forget him coming out to the stage with his fly wide open at the Slammys a few years ago?

If you believe Monsoon, every WWF arena is "jam-packed to the rafters." Hulk Hogan is "immortal." A losing wrestler is "literally put on the shelf with that slam." Worst of all, if you watch USA Network's *Prime Time Wrestling*, you'd believe that Monsoon has the power to fine or suspend Bobby Heenan because "The Brain" makes flippant comments.

Don't you believe it. Someone should suspend *Monsoon* for pushing the WWF company line to the point of nausea. Whatever happened to Jack Reynolds?



Honky Tonk Man

5—*The Honky Tonk Man*: He's The Honky Tonk Man. He's cool, he's cocky, he's . . . *blech*.

It's hard to believe this lousy Elvis impersonator has been allowed to run around the WWF unchecked since 1986. It's almost as hard to fathom that this greaser in a jumpsuit is the longest-reigning Intercontinental champion of all time (14 long, boring months in 1987 and 1988).

Lately, however, HTM has been

worse than ever. For some reason, Greg Valentine—a man who has shown good sense in the past—has decided to emulate Honky Tonk. Now there are *two* crashing bores running around with guitars, lip-synching the words to their “hit” single, “Hunka Hunka Honky Love.”

We’re gonna hurl.



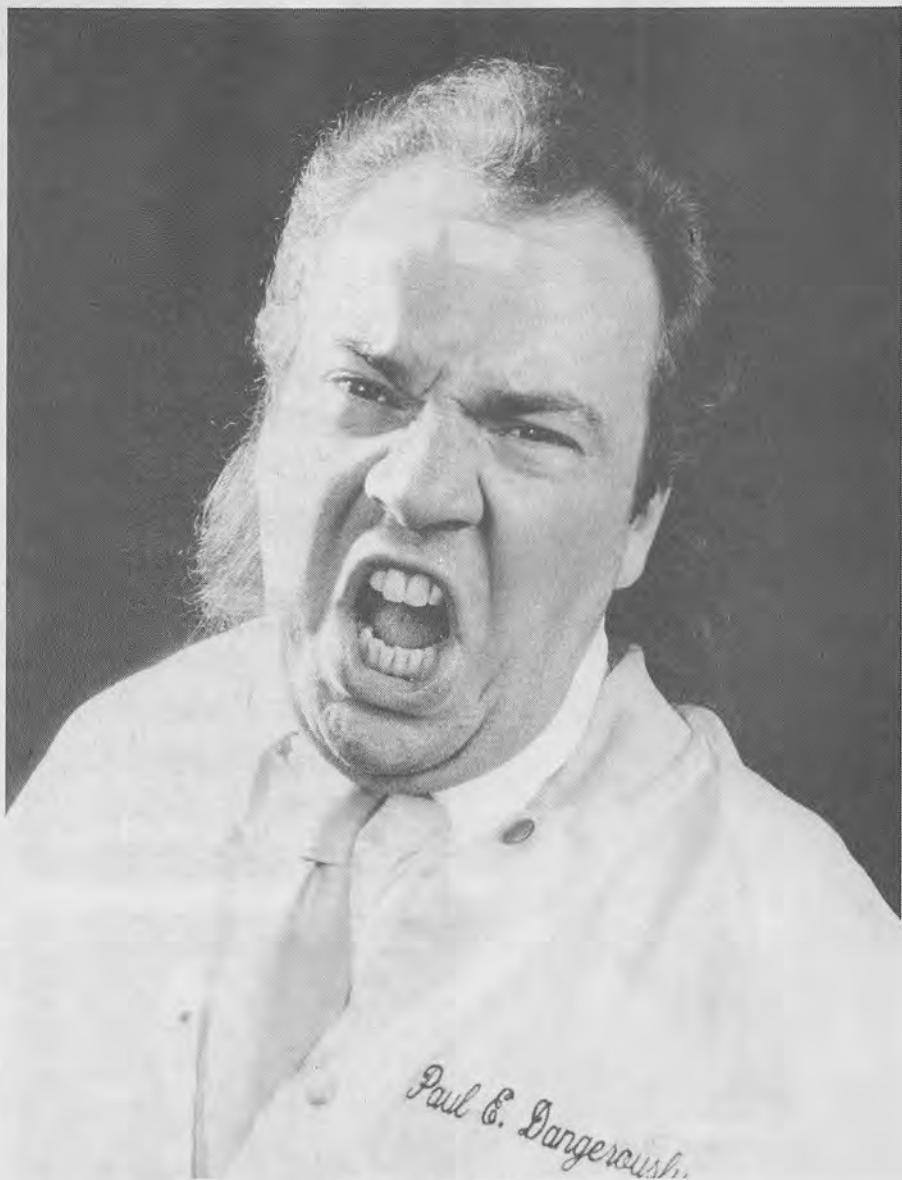
Lanny Poffo

6—Lanny Poffo: For a moment there, when Poffo was “advising” Curt Hennig, it looked as if this prancing poet would achieve main-event status.

Heaven forbid. Since “The Genius” had his hair clipped by Brutus Beefcake at WrestleMania VI, the WWF’s “poet laureate” has been running around in a flowing blond wig that even Sensational Sherri wouldn’t look good in. And those poems . . .

Perhaps Terrance M. Garvin will soon invade the WWF and use his rugged ring style to shut up Poffo once and for all.

7—Paul E. Dangerously: Once upon a time, this young Scarsdale, New York, native was being hailed as possessing the most brilliant managerial



Paul E. Dangerously

mind the sport had seen in years. Now, his only goal appears to be to drive Jim Ross into fits of anger on *NWA Power Hour*.

What happened? What changed this promising talent into a tower of babble?

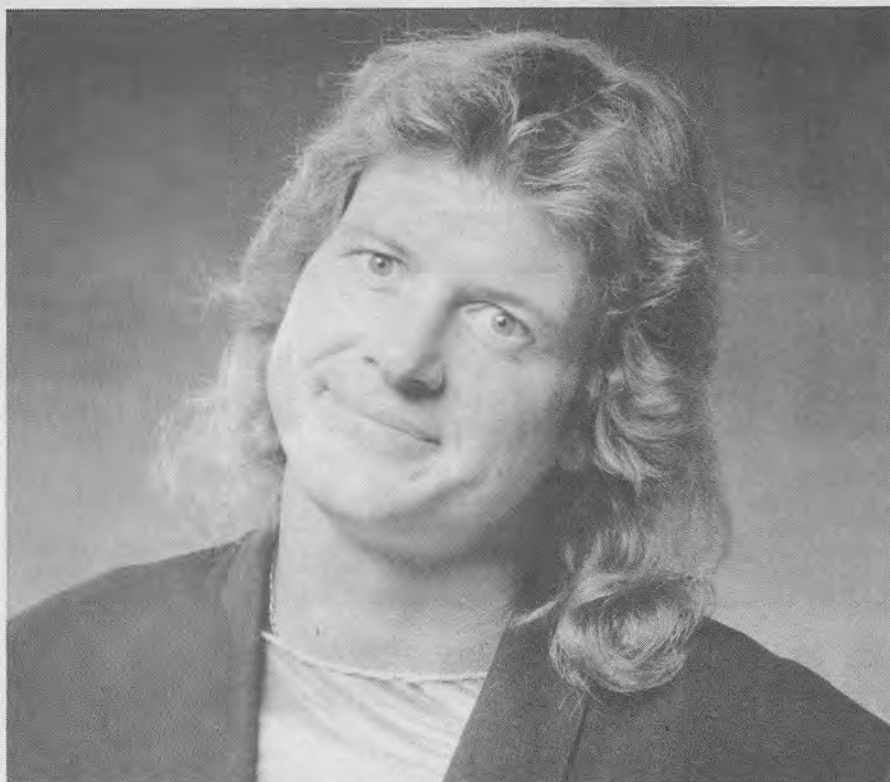
“People *want* to hear what I have to say,” Dangerously insists. “The chumps out there are tired of codgers like [Gordon] Solie and Ross. They want a fresh, new perspective on the sport, and that’s what I do best.”

Unfortunately, all Dangerously usually provides is a fresh, new perspective on Dangerously. We haven’t even mentioned his sickening fawning over rulebreakers on his “Danger Zone” segments, but we only have so much magazine space.

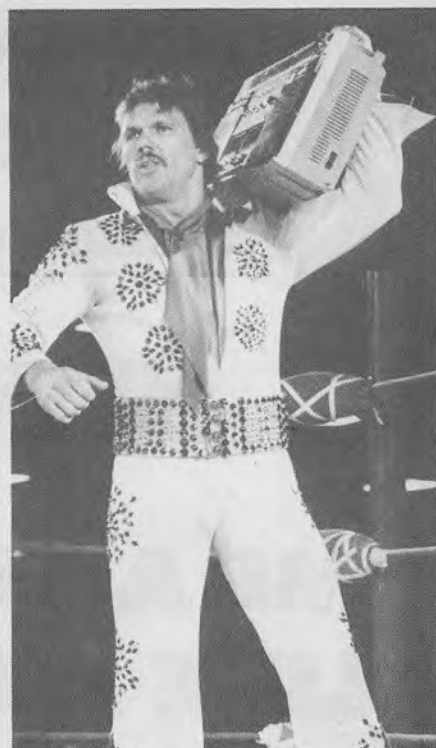
8—Roddy Piper: When we heard that the “Rowdy Scot” would replace Jesse Ventura on the WWF broadcast team, we applauded. When we actually heard his work, we moaned.

We truly believed that Piper would bring his considerable knowledge of wrestling to the table, but he’s already become caught in the trap of most WWF announcers: Talk, talk, and keep talking. It doesn’t matter if you’re not *saying* anything. Just keep talking.

“Being a color commentator doesn’t suit Piper at all,” said fan Ed Wallis of Toledo, Ohio. “Someone with such an abrasive personality should be taken in small doses. If they would bring back ‘Piper’s Pit,’ that would be okay. But now, I watch the WWF with the



Roddy Piper



Buck Zumhofs



Ultimate Warrior

sound turned off. Too much noise!"

9—The Ultimate Warrior: We have to give credit where credit is due. The Warrior became the first man in almost a decade to pin Hulk Hogan when he defeated the "Hulkster" at WrestleMania VI. Since then, he's

been an honorable champion.

An honorable raving lunatic, too. Does the WWF really want this kind of drooling neanderthal representing the federation? The Warrior's rambling, five-minute-long pre-WrestleMania soliloquies will go down in history

as the most incomprehensible interviews ever uttered—and that includes George Steele!

We'll never forget when the Warrior, with his back to the camera, uttered the classic line that will live forever in wrestling history:

"Grrrrrrgh mmmffff. Grrggz meggnan rzzz."

Need we say more?

10—Buck Zumhofs: When Zumhofs first started using his "Rock 'n' Roll" image around 1982, he was one of the very first men to mix music with the mat.

Now, eight years later, Zumhofs is still bringing a boom box to the ring with him. He's still playing the same tunes. And even though his hair is graying and he's getting a little slower, he keeps using the same, tired rock 'n' roll lingo. It's like watching your grandfather trying to match dance steps with M.C. Hammer.

"I'm just trying to stay young, baby," insists Zumhofs, now a 14-year veteran. "I was the first guy to bring rock 'n' roll to the ring, daddy, and I ain't stoppin' now!"

Give it up, Buck. You're still a fine wrestler. But as a rocker, you're strictly a not-so-golden oldie. □

HOTSEAT

STAN HANSEN

"ME AGAINST LUGER WAS LIKE A MAN AGAINST A BOY!"

THEY THOUGHT THEY could stop Stan Hansen, but they were wrong. The NWA thought fines and suspensions would be enough to stop the "Bad Man From Borger, Texas," but Hansen rebounded from what he called "an NWA conspiracy" to capture the U.S. title from Lex Luger on October 27 at "Halloween Havoc."

For Hansen, it was just the latest achievement in a career characterized by excellence and independence.

In 1985, Hansen won the AWA World title from Rick Martel. After losing the title by default to Nick Bockwinkel six months later, Hansen spent most of his time wrestling in Japan, where he could do what he wanted when he wanted to do it. He collected paychecks and titles and terrorized Japanese rings.

His occasional returns to the States weren't greeted with parades and celebrations. Indeed, Hansen's arrivals have always been cause for alarm, and it was no different when he returned to the NWA in mid-1990.

He sadistically brutalized opponents after matches were over. He attacked referee Pee Wee Anderson and was

suspended for 30 days. And he kept on going . . . right to Chicago, the UIC Pavilion, and Luger's U.S. title.

It was a remarkable achievement by a truly remarkable man. Several days after the win, *Inside Wrestling* dispatched Associate Editor Eddie Ellner to Hansen's ranch in Borger, Texas, to speak with the new champion.

“

There's only one factor when you wrestle Stan Hansen: Are you tough enough to go the distance?

”

Q: Well, buddy, you . . .

A: Who you calling "buddy," boy? I'm not your buddy. You're a member of the press, and as far as I'm concerned, you ain't on my side. Never have been and never will.

Q: You got that wrong, Stan. I've always been one of your biggest admirers, and it's a privilege to be sitting here today with the new NWA U.S. champion.

A: Don't suck up to me, Ellner. I don't need anybody on my side. I got my ranch and my hoss, and that's all I really need. That, my wife, my kids, and a few bucks I've got stocked away.

Q: A few bucks? From what I've heard, you've made a pretty healthy living in this sport.

A: That's my business, Ellner. I don't ask what nobody else makes and nobody asks me what I make. I just mind my own business. Besides, if those NWA clowns knew how much money I had, they'd just go and try to take it away from me.

Q: You're referring to the fines.

A: Yeah, I'm referring to the fines. Those lousy two-bit creeps tried to dip their hands into my pockets, but I got 'em back. Now that I'm U.S. champion, I control the shots. You know, Ellner, that's one of the best parts of being champion:





“

I'm gonna be a fighting champion. Luger's gonna get his shots. I'll go after Sting, too.

”

It puts you in control.

Q: How's that?

A: Because you can call your own shots. Just follow the 30-day rule and you can wrestle whoever you want whenever you want to. They come to you with a title defense and you tell them if you want it and how much you'll do it for. Of course, I've never turned down a challenge in my life. Not once.

Q: Naturally, Luger's already challenged you to a rematch, and I guess there'll be plenty of those.

A: As many as he wants. He's the former champion and he's got a right to wrestle me until he darn well quits, which shouldn't take too long. Me against Luger was like a man against a boy.

Q: It was an extremely impressive performance. I can't remember one point in the entire match in which Luger was able to sustain control. He really had an off-night.

A: An off-night? Is that what you call it? I call it an overrated wrestler

overpowered by a real man. I call it total devastation. Luger was never in the match. He was intimidated from the start and intimidated in the end.

Q: I think maybe Luger was always looking out for that cowbell of yours. That could really play on an opponent's mind.

A: Cowbell or no cowbell, I've man-handled men twice Luger's size. Everybody said he was too young for me, he was too strong for me, too big, all this garbage, but everybody forgot that there's only one factor when you wrestle Stan Hansen: Are you tough enough to go the distance?

Q: And Luger wasn't.

A: Nobody ever has been. You know, Bruiser Brody—and there's a man I respected and miss dearly—used to say that I was the toughest man alive. Well, coming from Bruiser, that was quite a compliment, because I thought *he* was the toughest man alive. Now that Bruiser's gone, I've got enough toughness for both of us.

Q: I guess this match meant a lot to you because Luger represents the so-called “new breed” of wrestlers.

A: It meant a lot to me for a lot of reasons. First of all, it was on a national television broadcast, and I want everybody out there to know that Stan Hansen's still alive and kicking. Second of all, it was a pay-per-view card, and in my dictionary that means big bucks. Third of all, there's no such thing as a “new breed” of wrestler. Ellner, this game ain't all that hard to figure. If you're tough enough to go the distance, you win. If you ain't got it inside, you lose.

Q: Luger really has lost most of the big matches in his career.

A: That's right. Take Flair, a two-bit wimp who could never do anything on his own. Always had to have the Horsemen interfering. Came into the ring with women on his arms. Women! What the heck are they doing anywhere near a ring? My wife stays home, takes care of the house, and feeds the kids. That's her job. My job is to go out



Lex Luger was tough on Hansen in this instance, but Hansen claims Luger was no match for him at all. Hansen adds the U.S. title to three championships he won in Japan.

and make a living.

Q: As you were saying . . .

A: As I was saying, Luger couldn't beat Flair, and he had a thousand chances. He's never been able to win the big one. He stepped through the ropes at "Halloween Havoc," looked across the ring, saw a man that's better than him, and just swallowed his guts. He don't got it.

Q: Although if he landed that clothesline, he'd still have the title.

A: That's an assumption, Ellner, and it's a wrong assumption. You're assuming his clothesline would've had an effect on me. Then you're assuming that he would've gotten the pin. Bad assumptions. I've spent my life making people look like idiots.



Dan Spivey gave Hansen his cowbell and rope (above), but Hansen didn't need them to pin Luger (below).



Q: Then you came back with the lariat and it was all over.

A: I came back with the lariat, Luger didn't know what hit him, and it's a good thing that referee [Mike Adkins] had the sense to make the count. He had me worried.

Q: Well, just a few seconds earlier you practically knocked him unconscious.

A: He got in the way and he paid the price. You know, if that little weasel had disqualified me for that, I would've choked the air out of his measly body.

Q: That surely would've earned you another suspension. I think the NWA has let you know where it stands when it comes to attacking officials.

A: The NWA is gonna have to get some officials in that ring who know what they're doing. This is a physical sport and a man's gotta be able to take a hit, even a referee. He's gotta expect some contact.

Q: Okay, so what's next for Stan Hansen?

A: Title defenses, and lots of 'em. I'm not just gonna sit around and let myself get fat, although Lord knows I deserve it. I'm gonna be a fighting champion. Luger's gonna get his shots and I'm gonna expose him for good. I'll go after Sting, too.



“

[Luger] looked across the ring, saw a man that's better than him, and just swallowed his guts. He don't got it.

”

Q: So the NWA World title is the ultimate goal?

A: That's right. The way I see it, Sting and Luger are the same type of wrestler. If I can do what I did to Luger, I can surely do double to Sting, smarts or no smarts. As I said, this all comes down to who's tougher. This sport is a rumble, and if you can't get back up after having your brains bashed into the cement, you just don't belong.

Q: Stan Hansen, you've certainly proved you belong.

A: You're damn right. And as long as I've got mouths to feed, I'm gonna keep on proving it. Nothing more dangerous than a hungry man with hungry kids.

Q: Or a hungry Stan Hansen.

A: Always *been* hungry. When that stops, you won't see me around anymore. I'll just retire to the ranch. But that's a long time coming. A long time. All you wimps out there can take that as a warning. □

AN OPEN
LETTER TO
RICK MARTEL:

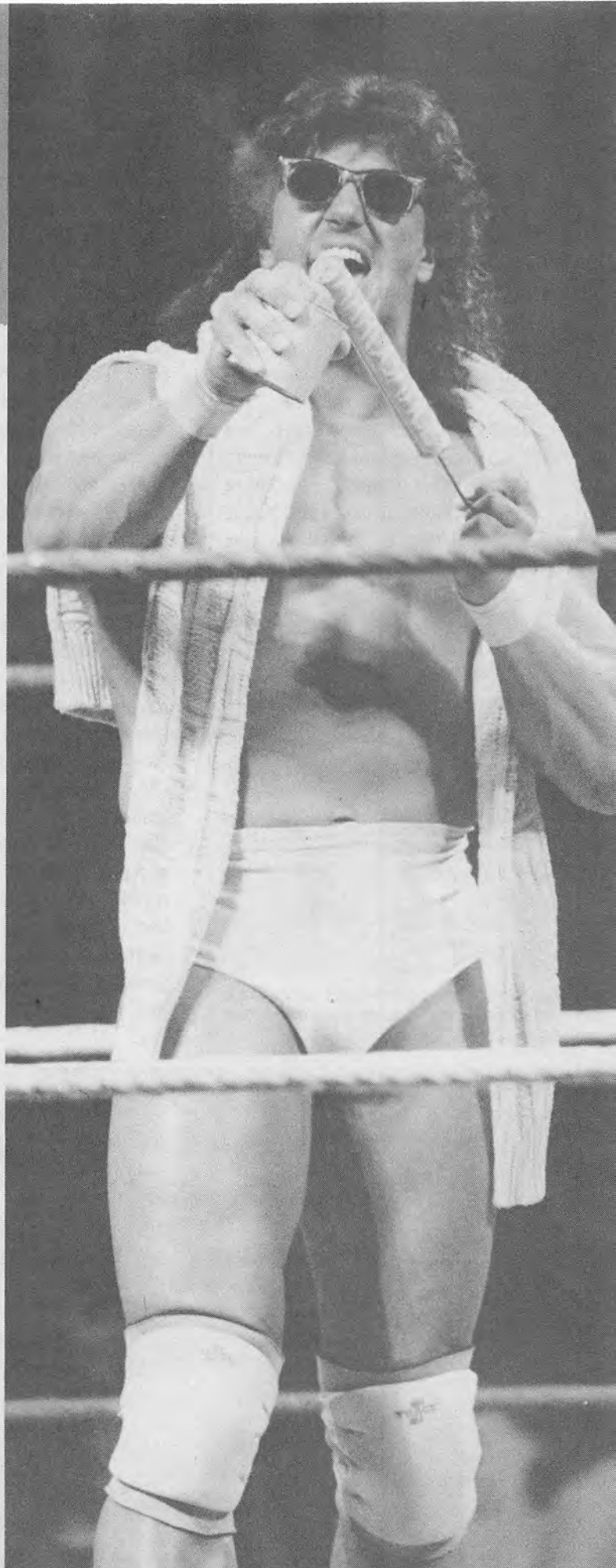
**YOU USED
TO BE A
MODEL
WRESTLER,
BUT NOW
YOUR
ARROGANCE
STINKS!**

The editors of *Inside Wrestling* miss the days when Rick Martel was one of the finest wrestlers in the world . . .

and one of the finest men, too.

Things have changed, but we haven't forgotten. So we've written a letter to

the man who calls himself "The
Model"



DEAR RICK,

Remember us? We're the people who, in a headline on the cover of our September 1984 issue, characterized your AWA World title victory over Jumbo Tsuruta this way: "Finally, An AWA Champion To Be Proud Of!" Remember that glorious night in the St. Paul Civic Center? It was a great moment, certainly the highlight of your career.

And how about that time in 1987 when you and Tito Santana—the great Strike Force—combined to win the WWF World tag team title from The Hart Foundation? You and Tito were one of the most exciting teams we've ever seen, and the fans were right behind you guys all the way.

In fact, everybody was behind you when Tom Zenk, your old partner in The Can-Am Connection, packed his bags and hit the road. At the time, we called Zenk immature for leaving you behind. We said he deserted the best teacher he'd ever have.

Then cracks began to appear in the Martel image, and we began to realize that Zenk had the right idea all along, that he knew something nobody else did: Your



While hanging out with Brother Love, Rick Martel blinded Jake Roberts with a squirt of his "Arrogance" cologne.



Martel and Tito Santana won the WWF World tag team title from The Hart Foundation in 1987 (far left). As The Can-Am Connection, Martel and Tom Zenk were a great duo (left), but they didn't last very long together.

soul had turned rotten and you were on the verge of a shocking change.

Pity Tom Zenk. Pity all of us who were fooled by your kindness and dedication to sportsmanship and honor.

Scientific skills, stamina, a great physique, and looks that had the women fainting in the aisles: You had it all.

You had the respect of your peers, the fans, and, needless to say, the wrestling press. From the day you first stepped into the ring in 1972 at age 16, you were admired by all. You were what wrestlers *should* be, but so

rarely are.

We have just a few questions for you, Rick. Maybe you can answer them. Most likely, you won't even bother.

1—Why did you turn against Tito Santana, your best friend and tag team partner?

2—Why did you turn against the fans, who supported you for all these years?

3—Is your life really better now that you've embraced this new lifestyle?

The women, by the way, no longer go wild over you.



Martel impressed many fans with his courage, wrestling through tremendous back pain as he lost the AWA World title to Stan Hansen in 1985. Today, Martel is called a lot of things, but "courageous" isn't one of them.

You were voted "Wrestling's Sexiest Superstar" in 1982 by the readers of *Wrestling Superstars* magazine, but now *you're* the only person who's impressed with yourself. Good looks? They're in the eye of the beholder. In most cases, ugliness inside overshadows the best-looking man in the world.

Do you realize how hard it is for Tito Santana to step into the ring against you? He doesn't want that, he wants to be your friend. He'd love to see Strike Force rejuvenated. But he knows he has a battle to fight. He knows he must wrestle you. It's like wrestling himself. It's *that* tough.

Certainly, you're proud of the way you ditched Santana. You don't need to share the glory of conquest with anyone. Not when, with one pump of

your "Arrogance," you can become the talk of the sport by blinding a fine man like Jake Roberts. Just step back for a moment, however, and consider the price you've paid for your so-called success.

The loss of friendship. The loss of respect. And how about the loss of *self-respect*?

Psychologists say that those people with the biggest egos actually have the lowest self-esteem. Their egos make up for the way they feel about themselves. They scream out, "I'm great!" but they say to themselves, "I stink!"

Well, the real Rick Martel doesn't stink. In fact, he was a great man who was loyal to his friends, a great wrestler, a man who was concerned about others.

A man who didn't complain at all when he lost his AWA World title to Stan Hansen in December 1985, despite wrestling the match with severe back pain.

You really didn't stand a chance that night, but you fought anyway. We wonder if the Rick Martel of today would have the same desire, the same inner strength, the same willingness to wrestle in such pain.

We think the answer is no. We think the old Rick Martel doesn't exist anymore. We wonder why.

You call yourself "The Model." Model what? Model wrestler? That's a laugh. You cheat in almost every match. More times than we care to remember, you've used the ropes for leverage to pin Tito Santana. Your



Martel takes great pleasure in pummeling Bret Hart. Those who once supported Martel, though, would like to see someone pummel some sense into *him!*



It isn't too late for Martel to apologize to Santana, but "The Model" probably won't even consider it, and that's a shame.

friend. Your former tag team partner.

This is victory? This is what wrestling is all about? Do you really get pleasure out of such tainted wins? Is that how far you've fallen?

If so, get back on your feet. Look at yourself in the mirror. Yeah, we know, you *always* look at yourself in the mirror. This time, take a *good* look. Examine yourself. Say to yourself: Is my life better now than it was before? Am I enjoying myself? Why am I always angry?

Is it fun to walk around with a chip on your shoulder?

Think about it. And when you're

done thinking about it, give Tito a call. We're sure he'd listen. Apologize. Tell him you made a grave mistake. Convince him that you want to change.

Let the old Rick Martel resurface! Let him shine! And if he can't win, who cares? Better a good loser than a cheating winner.

Yeah, we know you're not going to listen to us. We just had to get it off

our chest. We were just sitting around, reminiscing about wrestling, thinking about how great the Rick Martel years were.

"Wrestling's Sexiest Superstar." Remember that? This time around, you barely got a vote.

Sexy inside is sexy outside. What a shame that you're rotten to the core. □

The telephone wires sizzle every month as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. This is the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to see the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off ... One on One

THE ANIMOSITY BETWEEN "Mr. Wonderful" Paul Orndorff and "Cowboy" Bob Orton seems to grow with each passing day. It's hard to believe they were once close friends and associates.

When Orton's singles career was floundering in the WWF in 1984, he became the bodyguard of "Rowdy" Roddy Piper, who dubbed him "Ace." When Piper and Orndorff went into training for their match against Hulk Hogan and Mr. T at WrestleMania I, "Ace" was there to offer both men support, proud to be associated with two brash and controversial athletes.

Orton seconded Piper and Orndorff at that historic match, which ended in chaos. As Orndorff held Hogan, Orton prepared to smash the "Hulkster" with the cast he was wearing on his forearm. But Hogan moved out of the way and Orton clobbered Orndorff, who was easy prey for Hogan's pin.

In the days after the match, Piper and Orton blamed Orndorff for the defeat. Orndorff quickly broke from his cohorts, winning the fans' support in a sustained and brutal feud.

Orton continued to harbor a great deal of hatred for Orndorff, even after both men left the WWF. When Orndorff went into retirement in 1987, Orton bragged to several friends that "Mr. Wonderful" quit because he was afraid of him.

The feud remained dormant until September 1990, when the newly formed Universal Wrestling Federation invited both men to join its ranks. In their first UWF encounter, Orndorff

ONE ON ONE



"Get ready for the toughest matches you've ever fought. When we're through, it'll be you who's ready for retirement."

—Paul Orndorff

was the victor in a controversial count-out decision.

Naturally, Orton insists Orndorff's win was a fluke. Orndorff, on the other hand, is determined to prove that it wasn't. It took some doing, but we managed to get these two crafty veterans to go at it ... "One On One."

PAUL ORNDORFF:

You know, Orton, when we were in the WWF, I always wondered just exactly what your function was. You just stood around while me and Piper did all the work. And then when you *did* get off your butt, you cost us the match at WrestleMania. But I should have expected as much. You were just Piper's errand boy. You don't have the brain capacity to think for yourself.

BOB ORTON:

You know, Paul, it's just like you to keep harping about things that happened five long years ago. And it's just like you to accept a tainted victory like the one you scored against me the other night. That fat [referee Jesse] Hernandez should've stopped the count when you prevented me from getting back in the ring, but the dope just kept right on counting to 10. Naturally, you hightailed it out of there after I tanned your hide some more, you coward.

PO: Okay, Cowboy, I'm big enough to admit there was some controversy. So I'll give you all the rematches you want, but be warned: You'll just be setting yourself up for more humiliation. Every time I hear somebody call you some sort of technical wrestling master, I laugh.

N ONE



"You can never pin me, Paul, and you know it. I could beat you five years ago, and I can wipe the mat with you today."

—Bob Orton

You might have a lot of fancy holds and maneuvers, but you don't know *when* to use them. It's called strategy, and it's what sets me apart from you.

BO: Wrong, Mr. *Blunderful*. What sets a guy like me apart from a pretty boy like you is that I don't *need* any sissy strategies before I get into a ring. I'm a fighter, and that's exactly what I prepare to do. It don't matter if I face a prelim bum or a glorified has-been like you, either. I'm just out to kick some donkey, and that's exactly what I'm gonna do the next time you muster up enough guts to face me man-to-man.

PO: You, Orton, more than anybody, should know that you're talking to a man who's *never* had a problem with guts. I'll tell you what guts is. Guts is taking

on Kerry Von Erich in my very first match after I came out of retirement. You probably would've taken about 50 prelim matches before you faced some real competition, but I stepped right through the ropes against the very best—and I beat him! No way you'd ever top that!

BO: For once I agree with you about something. No, I *wouldn't* step into the ring with Kerry Von Erich, because I don't consider him to be the best of anything. You have a very warped perception of things, Paula. Like right now, for instance. You're parading around like some of kind of fan favorite, but everybody knows you can't be trusted. Ask Bobby Heenan. Ask Oliver Humperdink. They're your ex-managers, and they know you for the turncoat you are. Why

don't you drop the goody-goody facade and start bustin' the rules again? You ain't gonna be happy until you do, pal.

PO: You don't get it, do you, Cowboy? I was on the dark side for a long time. I know how people like you think, because I thought the same way. The difference is, I smartened up to the fact that I was on a one-way path to my own destruction. That's given me a new purpose. Now I'm fighting for all the right reasons. You think breaking the rules is the way to go, huh? Sure, down the road you might win a couple of belts by cheating, but you won't win them from me, 'cause I know what you're made of.

BO: Oh, I'm *so* ashamed of myself! You know what you are, Orndorff? You're a hypocrite, and you make me sick to my stomach.

PO: Not as sick as I get when I see some of the cows you take out after the matches. Geez, Orton, what planet do you find these women on?

BO: You're just jealous, Orndope. You're jealous of my superplex, the most emulated maneuver in the history of this sport. You're jealous of the fact that I'm more famous and more good-looking than you are. But most of all, you're envious over the fact that there's no way you can beat me. You can never pin me, Paul, and you know it. I could beat you five years ago, and I can wipe up the mat with you today.

PO: You always were one for meaningless boasts. Well, the time for talking is over, and the time for fighting has begun. I'm in the best shape of my life. Get ready for the toughest matches you've ever fought. When we're through, it'll be *you* who's ready for retirement. And if I'm in a good mood, maybe I'll give you a bon voyage party.

BO: The only partying you'll find around here will be done by the UWF promoters, who will soon find one less person on the payroll—Paul Orndorff. I'm sick of talking. Let's jump in the ring and get this damn thing over with! □

SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 5)



When Dusty Rhodes won the NWA World title as The Midnight Rider, NWA officials wouldn't let him keep the belt because he refused to unmask.

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A FOUR-TIME CHAMP?

Your "Capsule Profile" of Dusty Rhodes (November 1990) was complete in all respects but one: Dusty did officially hold the NWA World title on three occasions, but he also held it, albeit briefly and unofficially, for a fourth time as well.

In 1979, Dusty had been temporarily suspended in Florida, but he circumvented that ruling by wrestling in the state as The Midnight Rider (a persona he has resurrected several times since). As the Rider, Dusty beat Harley Race for the World title.

However, NWA officials insisted that the Rider unmask for them or forfeit the belt. Knowing that if he revealed his true identity, his suspension would become a permanent ban not only in Florida, but throughout the entire NWA, the Rider surrendered the belt. The official NWA report concluded that promoters and the media should simply disregard the title change and continue to recognize Race as the champion.

THOM PEREZ
 Gary, IN

SORRY, DAVE

Poor Dave Rosenbaum. He wants to be a real journalist so badly, but he just keeps blowing it.

When I started reading *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, Rosenbaum was one of the most readable writers on the staff, but then he started getting personal. Whining about his column being moved out of *PWI* was nauseating, but his attack on a reader ("Behind The Dressing Room Door," November 1990) was downright childish. He used his column to turn the writer's letter into a one-sided argument in his favor.

Rosenbaum is supposed to be a writer; his work is written for paying customers and it is subject to their criticism. They, however, should not personally be subject to his.

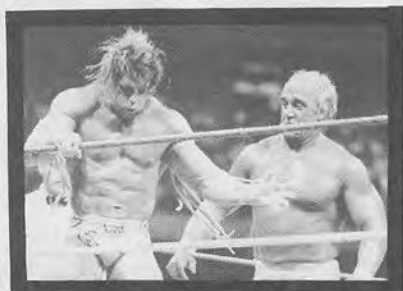
JASON GALE
 Ottawa, Ontario

"SWEET EDDIE"

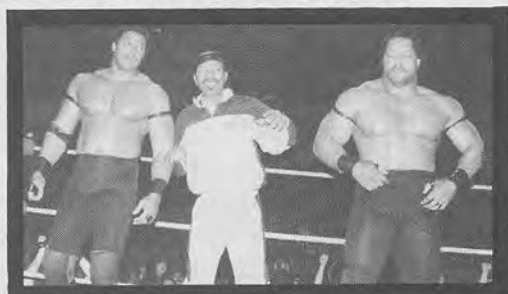
I just had to write and say how much I loved reading Eddie Ellner's column about Brutus Beefcake and Sting in the November 1990 edition
 (Continued on page 54)

THIS MONTH IN...

WRESTLING SUPERSTARS



A very special section: "The Champions—And The Men Most Likely To Take Their Titles!"



NWA World tag team champions **BUTCH REED** and **RON SIMMONS—DOOM**—are featured in a rare interview

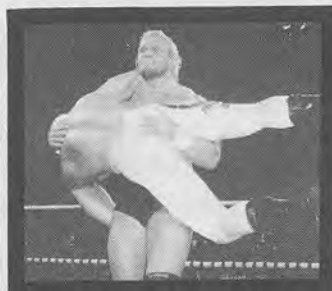
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B. Sammartino & Dick the Bruiser vs. Ernie Ladd & Baron Von Raschke
Tully Blanchard vs. Manny Fernandez
Rick Rude vs. Jerry Lawler
The Crusher, Dick the Bruiser & Little Bruiser vs. Blackjack Mulligan, Bobby Heenan & Blackjack Lanza

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Dick Slater vs. Dory Funk Jr.
The Sheik vs. Tiger Jeet Singh (Cage)
The Fabulous Blonds vs. Al Perez & Manny Fernandez
Terry Funk vs. Harley Race
Pepper Gomez vs. The Bounty Hunter

VOL. 4 □

Austin Idol vs. Jim Neidhart
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Rick Rude, Jim Neidhart, Ox Baker & The Japanese Assassin vs. Robert Reed, Tiger Mask, Keith Eric & Mad Dog
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Terry Taylor vs. Sabu
Chief Wahoo McDaniel & Tommy Rogers & Marty Jannetty vs. Ted Oates & The Grapplers

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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 52)

("The Insider"). For once, he sounded nice. I detected some caring and a sense of emotion in his writing. As long as I have been reading Eddie's columns, he has not once displayed his emotion like that. I am so proud of him.

I hope to see more of "Sweet" Eddie Ellner.

HEATHER WALTERS
Houston

LARRYGATE

It was typical of Larry Zbyszko to try and keep all the Team Challenge Series money for himself ("Team Challenge Series Scandal! Larry Zbyszko's Million-Dollar Ripoff!" December 1990). The man continually proves that he'll do just about anything to dishonor the AWA World title belt he wears, and, additionally, to dishonor himself.

What a pity. This man was once the protege of the great Bruno Sammartino. It must make Mr. Sammartino very sad to see what Zbyszko has become.

It's starting to look like the only



Larry Zbyszko should be stripped of the AWA title, says reader Cynthia Palomini.

way to curb Zbyszko's excesses is to strip him of the title. That might be the lesson he needs.

CYNTHIA PALOMINI
Falls Church, VA

FORGET THE MANE

Of all the ridiculous things for Matt Brock to write about ("Plain Speaking" December 1990): the color of Missy Hyatt's hair!

Yes, Mr. Brock, I know you wrote about it because you thought the fans in Atlanta were wasting too much time talking about such a meaningless subject, but you yourself wasted your time (and your readers') by putting such an item in print.

Take your own words to heart:
"Folks, concentrate on the wrestling."

MARY CAPODANO
Detroit

TOO FAST

Why did Kerry Von Erich get to be the number-one contender to Curt Hennig's Intercontinental title so soon after entering the WWF? Couldn't they have found someone else to take the injured Brutus Beefcake's spot at SummerSlam, someone like Jake Roberts or Tito Santana?

I have nothing against Von Erich. I think he is a great wrestler, but just to spite the WWF, I hope he loses the title real soon.

BRUCE GRAY
Orlando, FL ☐



Intercontinental champion Kerry Von Erich prepares to unload on Haku with a "tornado punch." Reader Bruce Gray says Kerry received his title opportunity when more deserving wrestlers should have gotten the chance.

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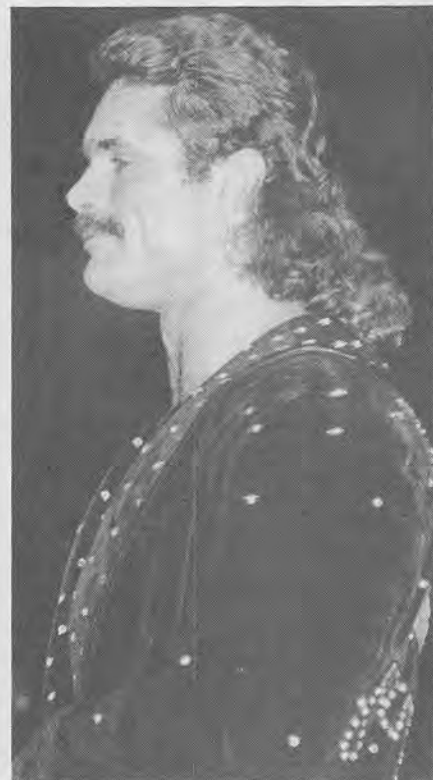
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DRESSING ROOM DOOR

(Continued from page 12)



WWF President Jack Tunney (above left) was wrong to suspend Rick Rude (above right) for something so minor as making comments about Big Bossman's mother.

Bossman and Rude don't.

3. Jack Tunney. Suspending a wrestler for "grossly inappropriate" comments about another wrestler's mother? Is that what baseball commissioner Fay Vincent would call "protecting the integrity of the sport"? Tunney is obviously overreacting.

In this case, all three parties have a lot of growing up to do.

Rude should be allowed to return to competition in the WWF.

Bossman should swallow his childish pride, say nothing, and let Rude do one of the things he does best: make a jackass out of himself.

As for Tunney, if he can't handle the pressure of his position, there is only one thing for him to do: resign.

Prediction: Greg Valentine and The Honky Tonk Man will win the WWF World tag team title before or at WrestleMania VII.

Rhythm 'n' Blues, the tag team that's strumming along to victory after hard-fought victory, has quickly risen in the tag team ratings and is ready to make history.

A request: All you people out there—and there are many of you—who have made a habit out of downgrading The Honky Tonk



Rhythm 'n' Blues will win the WWF World tag team title, predicts Dave Rosenbaum.

Man should get out a pen or pencil and write me a letter. It should say: *Mr. Rosenbaum, you were right. The Honky Tonk Man is a great wrestler.*

Let's check out some highlights of Honky Tonk's outstanding WWF career:

1. He won the Intercontinental title from Rick Steamboat and is still the longest-reigning I-C champion of all time.

2. He was good enough to get several shots at the WWF World heavyweight title.

3. He's now on the verge of winning the WWF World tag team title.

Those who call him a fool should realize that this fool has done more in three years than most wrestlers do in a lifetime.

I don't care *how* he's done it. All I know is that Honky Tonk is an accomplished wrestler.

Entertaining, too. He can still sing, dance, and play the guitar. He still has that quick Honky Tonk sense of humor. And he's still misunderstood.

Give him credit for teaming with Valentine, one of the best tag team wrestlers ever. Give him credit, too, for rebounding from a series of devastating defeats by The Ultimate Warrior and getting his career back in order.

No, Honky Tonk doesn't always follow the rules. And yes, he does often get out of hand. But if anything, he errs on the side of overenthusiasm. Indeed, he's an overachiever. Everyone said he was nothing; the facts, and the record books, say that he's something.

He's been booed since the day he stepped foot on WWF soil.

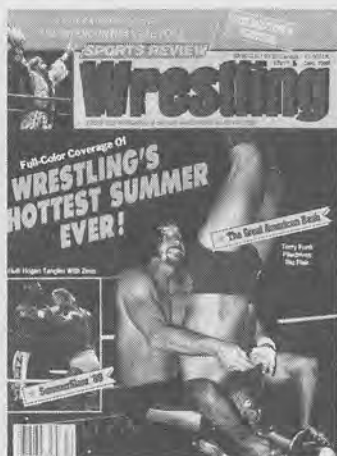
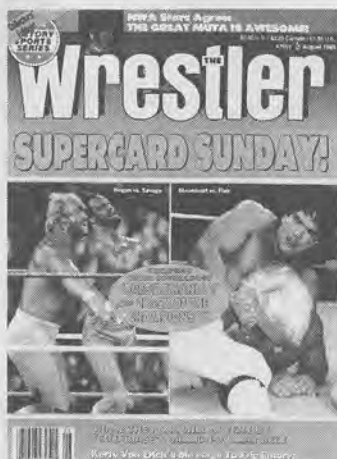
He's spent every moment wrestling in defiance of his critics.

Now it can be said without fear of reprisal: The critics were wrong.

Every critic, that is, except yours truly. ☐

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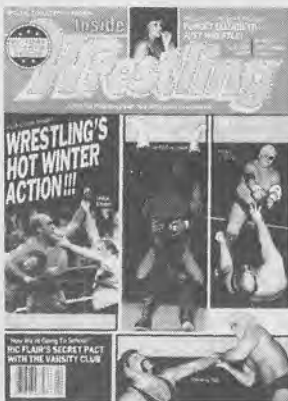
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The spectacular August 1989 edition of *The Wrestler* provided very special FULL-COLOR coverage of one of the most historic days in wrestling history: SuperCard Sunday. On that day, WrestleMania V and Clash of the Champions VI took place, and this once-in-a-lifetime magazine provides all the action and analysis of a once-in-a-lifetime day!



◀ SPECIAL ISSUE #2

A dynamic special section in the April 1989 issue of *Inside Wrestling* offered four pages of FULL-COLOR coverage of: The Survivor Series, SuperClash III, Battlestar 88, and Clash of the Champions—Season's Beatings. Plus, an in-depth analysis places all these cards in historical perspective.

◀ SPECIAL ISSUE #3

The December 1989 issue of *Sports Review Wrestling* called it "Wrestling's Hottest Summer Ever!"—and indeed it was! In that issue, readers saw four pages of glorious FULL-COLOR coverage of the NWA's Great American Bash and the WWF's SummerSlam '89. A very special editorial section offered exclusive in-depth analysis of both events.

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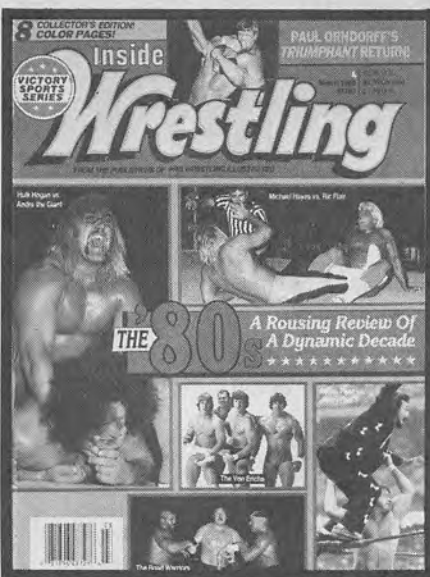
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THE INSIDER

(Continued from page 14)



Paul Orndorff insists he would have beaten Hulk Hogan for the WWF World title had the referee not been knocked out in one particular match. NWA official Nick Patrick says the problem of referees getting knocked out doesn't happen as often as one would think.

This match is merely the latest in a long line of championship travesties, too numerous to name, in which I've seen a referee incapacitated to the point where he was unable to administer a proper pin count.

I'm getting sick of it.

Granted, it's an occupational hazard for referees to catch a stray punch or forearm. And that's precisely the point. Since these things occur with some regularity, why doesn't pro wrestling do what every other major sport does:

Have a back-up official at ringside to take over in case of injury. Give him the power to continue a pin count or disqualify a wrestler. In short, let him take over so the match can continue uninterrupted.

I can't think of a single rational reason why the sport's rulesmakers have avoided an obvious solution to a major and recurring problem.

"Generally, one referee *can* handle a major title match," said top NWA referee Nick Patrick. "The incident you describe in fact

happens too infrequently to change the federation's official policy. When it happens, it's just part of the game, like an umpire getting hit with a baseball or a football official blocking a runner."

In other words, this brilliant argument is saying: It's just part of life to get sick, so why go to a doctor?

What no one takes into account is the potential harm it does to the individual wrestlers.

"You want me to be honest?" says Paul Orndorff. "It *still* bugs me. I remember one match I had with [then-WWF World champion Hulk] Hogan back in '85. I beat his butt from ringpost to ringpost."

Then a stray elbow leveled the referee right before a suplex leveled Hogan.

"I had Hogan down for close to 30 seconds. It's not my imagination, I have the match at home on videotape. But there was no one there to make the count. It's pathetic!"

By the time the referee regained his senses, Hogan had regained his. Wrestling defensively, he managed to thwart any further Orndorff advances. The match ended in another Hogan pinfall win.

"The champion gets all the calls," Orndorff says bitterly. "If it's a draw, he keeps the title. If there's a disqualification, he keeps the title. So when you have a man fairly pinned in the middle of the ring for all to see and the only thing keeping you from the belt is the lack of an official, it can get extremely frustrating. Opportunities like that shouldn't be squandered because there isn't an official around."

Orndorff is absolutely correct. It's time the powers-that-be took steps to permanently correct a problem that only gets worse each time another wrestler is denied what is rightfully his:

A fair chance. ☐

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ON ASSIGNMENT

(Continued from page 16)

were released and fireworks exploded. We had a new World champion.

Then, like something out of *The Twilight Zone*, another Sting came walking down the runway with a rope tied around his arm. Suddenly, everything was clear: An impostor Sting had tied up the real Sting, then lost the match on purpose so that Vicious would be awarded the belt.

Vicious, shocked by the appearance of the real Sting, was defenseless. The referee called for

First of all, Vicious was in on the plan. Otherwise, he wouldn't have drawn the real Sting back to the dressing room.

Second of all, once it was obvious that the real Sid Vicious pinned a false Sting, referee Nick Patrick should have either disqualified Vicious or ruled the match a no-contest.

I hate to say this, especially since Vicious got what he deserved for his trickery, but a match can't continue once it's been ended. The people in the



Had the Horsemen's trickery worked, Sid Vicious would be NWA World champion. Hunter says this hoax proves how desperate the Horsemen are getting.

the match to continue, and Sting pinned Vicious to retain the belt. Afterward, the videotape replay revealed a runway confrontation between the real Sting and the impostor Sting.

I thought I had seen it all. Remember several years ago when Andre the Giant used an impostor referee to beat Hulk Hogan for the WWF World title? Well, this reminded me of that. Only this was even more bizarre.

As of press time, there are still a lot of questions about this hoax that need to be answered. A few things, however, seem clear.

UIC Pavilion had no idea what was happening. Heck, I'm not sure Patrick really had any idea what was going on!

Now, as far as this double-Sting situation goes . . .

"I couldn't believe it," said Sting. "It was an evening I'd rather forget. First The Black Scorpion pulls that disappearing act with the girl, then there are two of me. I couldn't believe it. I thought I was looking into a mirror."

By the way, close observers—and I must admit I didn't notice this until the replay—would have noticed that the fake Sting had a

little extra weight around the middle. That was the giveaway.

"Heck, nobody can imitate my physique," Sting said with a laugh. But he wouldn't have been laughing if he didn't break free. The Horsemen's plan very nearly worked. Who knows what will happen next time?

This is obviously a problem the NWA has to deal with. The federation was nearly embarrassed on one of its biggest nights of the year. The wrong man almost won the right belt. Disciplinary action is absolutely necessary.

My suggestion would be to indefinitely suspend Vicious and the Horsemen. It's a drastic action, but it's necessary. It's the only way to keep a similar situation from occurring again. There is no limit to what the Horsemen will do to dethrone Sting.

I think Sting's going to have to look out for himself more than ever over the next few months. I'm sorry to say this, but it's true. The Horsemen are like a bunch of rabid dogs who have been cornered. They're desperate men. And, as "Halloween Havoc" proved, desperate men will try anything to get what they want.

Sting's a model champion and a model human being. Forget his good looks (for a moment). He's just what everybody wants in a world champion.

Unfortunately, he's being attacked on all sides by the Horsemen, and from The Black Scorpion as well. The sad thing is that nobody has the guts to come straight at him.

I talked to Eddie Ellner the other day. He had just come back from interviewing Stan Hansen. According to Ellner, Hansen wants a piece of Sting.

Well, that's fine with me. Hansen's the type of man who wouldn't resort to any kind of trickery.

I've had enough of magical nights. ☐

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TERRY TAYLOR

(Continued from page 29)

and maybe some of the people who only knew The Red Rooster from the WWF will see me and say, 'Heck, he's not a bad wrestler after all.'"

Actually, Terry Taylor is a *great* wrestler. As Williams noted, there was a time when experts thought Taylor had definite world-championship potential. Maybe he still does.

"Terry's a heckuva wrestler and a heckuva guy," said NWA World champion Sting. "I can see where his WWF stint played games with his head. But now he's moving forward, and he really

me," Taylor said. "You know, I've always embraced the pure sport aspect of wrestling; I never relied on gimmicks. But people used to say I was too boring to get anywhere. I needed some personality, but I went too far in the other direction. Man, I didn't have to turn myself into a dancing chicken."

The new (old) Terry Taylor doesn't rely on any gimmicks. He's the same man who came out of Vero Beach, Florida, 10 years ago and impressed the experts with his all-around skills.

He didn't need a gimmick. He



It isn't too late for Taylor to regain the respect he once had; the Floridian was once tabbed as a future world champion.

has tremendous skills. You know, it's a shame that some people like to make fools of others."

Unfortunately, fans aren't so quick to forget a person's past. To many NWA fans, the WWF is the enemy, a circus, a sideshow act, a Saturday-morning cartoon. Fairly or unfairly, Taylor's Red Rooster represents everything that's bad about the WWF.

"I agree with that, and it shames

didn't need a manager. He didn't need a costume. He was going to get rich on his wrestling *skills* and nothing else.

Now he's trying to do the same all over again. It isn't too late. He's still relatively young. He's still respected by other wrestlers who are smart enough to look past the Rooster days and see the skills beneath the surface.

Terry Taylor has come out of the henhouse and is back on a solid road to greatness once again.

This time around, we hope he makes it with his self-respect intact. ☐



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| <input type="checkbox"/> NOV 77 | <input type="checkbox"/> AUG 81 | <input type="checkbox"/> DEC 83 | <input type="checkbox"/> MAR 86 | <input type="checkbox"/> FEB 88 | <input type="checkbox"/> APR 90 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OCT 78 | <input type="checkbox"/> OCT 81 | <input type="checkbox"/> MAR 84 | <input type="checkbox"/> APR 86 | <input type="checkbox"/> MAR 88 | <input type="checkbox"/> MAY 90 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NOV 78 | <input type="checkbox"/> JAN 82 | <input type="checkbox"/> APR 84 | <input type="checkbox"/> MAY 86 | <input type="checkbox"/> MAY 88 | <input type="checkbox"/> JUNE 90 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DEC 78 | <input type="checkbox"/> MAR 82 | <input type="checkbox"/> MAY 84 | <input type="checkbox"/> JUNE 86 | <input type="checkbox"/> JUNE 88 | <input type="checkbox"/> JULY 90 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MAY 79 | <input type="checkbox"/> APR 82 | <input type="checkbox"/> JUNE 84 | <input type="checkbox"/> JULY 86 | <input type="checkbox"/> JULY 88 | <input type="checkbox"/> AUG 90 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> JULY 79 | <input type="checkbox"/> MAY 82 | <input type="checkbox"/> JULY 84 | <input type="checkbox"/> AUG 86 | <input type="checkbox"/> AUG 88 | <input type="checkbox"/> SEPT 90 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AUG 79 | <input type="checkbox"/> JUNE 82 | <input type="checkbox"/> AUG 84 | <input type="checkbox"/> SEPT 86 | <input type="checkbox"/> SEPT 88 | <input type="checkbox"/> OCT 90 |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> FEB 80 | <input type="checkbox"/> SEPT 82 | <input type="checkbox"/> NOV 84 | <input type="checkbox"/> DEC 86 | <input type="checkbox"/> JAN 89 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MAR 80 | <input type="checkbox"/> OCT 82 | <input type="checkbox"/> DEC 84 | <input type="checkbox"/> JAN 87 | <input type="checkbox"/> FEB 89 | |

INSIDE WRESTLING'S OFFICIAL RATINGS

TOP 15

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 1— STING
(1) NWA World champion | 4— STAN HANSEN
(14) U.S. heavyweight champion | 8— LEX LUGER
(3) No. 1 contender: U.S. title | 12— ARN ANDERSON
(8) NWA TV champion |
| 2— ULTIMATE WARRIOR
(2) WWF World champion | 5— RANDY SAVAGE
(-) No. 2 contender: WWF title | 9— JERRY LAWLER
(15) USWA champion | 13— RIC FLAIR
(7) No. 4 contender: NWA title |
| 3— KERRY VON ERICH
(4) WWF I-C champion | 6— CURT HENNIG
(5) No. 1 contender: I-C title | 10— STEVE KEIRN
(-) PWF champion | 14— LARRY ZBYSKO
(10) AWA World champion |
| | 7— SID VICIOUS
(9) No. 2 contender: NWA title | 11— HULK HOGAN
(6) No. 7 contender: WWF title | 15— THE GRAPPLER
(11) PNW champion |

NWA

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 1— STING
(1) 260, Venice Beach, CA | 4— LEX LUGER
(2) 268, Chicago, IL | 8— TERRY TAYLOR
(10) 225, Vero Beach, FL | 12— MIKE ROTUNDO
(12) 245, Syracuse, NY |
| 2— STAN HANSEN
(6) 322, Borger, TX | 5— BLACK SCORPION
(5) ???, parts unknown | 9— JUNKYARD DOG
(8) 305, Charlotte, NC | 13— MOONDOG REX
(-) 302, parts unknown |
| 3— SID VICIOUS
(4) 318, West Memphis, AK | 6— ARN ANDERSON
(7) 249, Minneapolis, MN | 10— NORMAN
(13) 380, Saginaw, MI | 14— J.W. STORM
(-) 267, Los Angeles, CA |
| | 7— RIC FLAIR
(3) 243, Minneapolis, MN | 11— BRAD ARMSTRONG
(-) 226, Marietta, GA | 15— TOM ZENK
(-) 237, Minneapolis, MN |

WWF

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 1— ULTIMATE WARRIOR
(1) 280, Queens, NY | 4— CURT HENNIG
(3) 235, Minneapolis, MN | 8— BIG BOSSMAN
(12) 358, Cobb County, GA | 12— DUSTY RHODES
(10) 302, Austin, TX |
| 2— KERRY VON ERICH
(2) 260, Denton, TX | 5— TED DIBIASE
(8) 247, Omaha, NB | 9— SGT. SLAUGHTER
(9) 310, Parris Island, SC | 13— THE BARBARIAN
(-) 295, New York, NY |
| 3— RANDY SAVAGE
(6) 245, Sarasota, FL | 6— EARTHQUAKE
(4) 462, Montreal, Quebec | 10— DINO BRAVO
(14) 256, Montreal, Quebec | 14— THE WARLORD
(15) 360, Chicago, IL |
| | 7— HULK HOGAN
(5) 302, Venice Beach, CA | 11— DAVEY BOY SMITH
(-) 245, Leeds, England | 15— JAKE ROBERTS
(11) 246, Stone Mountain, GA |

AWA

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1— LARRY ZBYSKO
(1) 248, Pittsburgh, PA | 4— THE TROOPER
(6) 243, Charlotte, NC | 8— WAYNE BLOOM
(10) 266, Minneapolis, MN | 12— D.J. PETERSON
(8) 245, St. Joseph, MO |
| 2— TOMMY JAMMER
(-) 245, San Diego, CA | 5— TATSUMI FUJINAMI
(3) 231, Tokyo, Japan | 9— LARRY CAMERON
(2) 280, Chicago, IL | 13— MIKE ENOS
(9) 252, Minneapolis, MN |
| 3— NIKITA KOLOFF
(5) 275, Moscow, Russia | 6— SCOTT NORTON
(4) 360, Minneapolis, MN | 10— BUCK ZUMHOFE
(12) 222, Minneapolis, MN | 14— JONNIE STEWART
(13) 242, Pacific Palisades, CA |
| | 7— COL. DeBEERS
(7) 248, Cape Town, S. Africa | 11— BRAD RHEINGANS
(-) 248, Appleton, MN | 15— JAKE MILLIMAN
(15) 220, Minneapolis, MN |

MOST POPULAR

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1— STING
Last month: No. 2 Most Popular | 4— KERRY VON ERICH
Last month: No. 5 Most Popular | 8— JAKE ROBERTS
Last month: No. 13 Most Popular | 12— PAUL ORNDORFF
Last month: unrated |
| 2— HULK HOGAN
Last month: No. 1 Most Popular | 5— LEX LUGER
Last month: No. 3 Most Popular | 9— JERRY LAWLER
Last month: No. 9 Most Popular | 13— RIC STEINER
Last month: No. 12 Most Popular |
| 3— THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR
Last month: No. 4 Most Popular | 6— BIG BOSSMAN
Last month: No. 6 Most Popular | 10— SCOTTY THE BODY
Last month: unrated | 14— HACKSAW DUGGAN
Last month: No. 15 Most Popular |
| | 7— SCOTT STEINER
Last month: No. 7 Most Popular | 11— TUGBOAT
Last month: No. 8 Most Popular | 15— DUSTY RHODES
Last month: No. 11 Most Popular |

MOST HATED

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 1— RIK MARTEL
Last month: unrated | 4— EARTHQUAKE
Last month: No. 2 Most Hated | 8— SGT. SLAUGHTER
Last month: No. 8 Most Hated | 12— COL. DeBEERS
Last month: unrated |
| 2— SID VICIOUS
Last month: No. 1 Most Hated | 5— STAN HANSEN
Last month: No. 7 Most Hated | 9— RIC FLAIR
Last month: No. 5 Most Hated | 13— ARN ANDERSON
Last month: No. 12 Most Hated |
| 3— TED DIBIASE
Last month: No. 3 Most Hated | 6— BLACK SCORPION
Last month: No. 4 Most Hated | 10— THE GRAPPLER
Last month: No. 15 Most Hated | 14— CURT HENNIG
Last month: No. 13 Most Hated |
| | 7— EDDIE GILBERT
Last month: No. 6 Most Hated | 11— RANDY SAVAGE
Last month: No. 11 Most Hated | 15— LARRY ZBYSKO
Last month: No. 14 Most Hated |

TAG TEAMS

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1— DOOM
(1) NWA World tag team champions | 6— THE NASTY BOYS
(-) No. 1 contenders: U.S. tag title | 11— DEMOLITION (SMASH, CRUSH, AX)
(5) No. 3 contenders: WWF tag title |
| 2— RIK & SCOTT STEINER
(3) U.S. tag team champions | 7— THE LEGION OF DOOM
(-) No. 2 contenders: WWF tag title | 12— THE MASTER BLASTERS
(-) No. 2 contenders: U.S. tag title |
| 3— THE ROCKERS
(-) WWF World tag team champions | 8— TONY ANTHONY & DOUG GILBERT
(-) USWA tag team champions | 13— PAUL ROMA & HERCULES
(13) No. 4 contenders: WWF tag title |
| 4— ARN ANDERSON & RIC FLAIR
(6) No. 1 contenders: NWA tag title | 9— GREG VALENTINE & THE HONKY TONK MAN
(4) No. 3 contenders: WWF tag title | 14— D.J. PETERSON & THE TROOPER
(10) AWA World tag team champions |
| 5— THE HART FOUNDATION
(2) No. 1 contenders: WWF tag title | 10— RIP & LARRY OLIVER
(-) PNW tag team champions | 15— THE UNDERTAKERS
(12) ICW tag team champions |

These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue ... "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices ... Championships marked with asterisks on the "Roll Call of Champions" indicate title changes that have taken place since our previous issue ... The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place.

For period ended November 1, 1990

ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

JOHNNY ACE & KENTA KOBASHI

(September 8, 1990; tournament final over Bobby Fulton & Tommy Rogers; Fukui, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: STAN HANSEN

(July 27, 1990; for vacant title over Mitsuharu Misawa; Matsudo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Jumbo Tsuruta & Kabuki)

ALL-JAPAN JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MASANOBU FUCHI

(October 20, 1989; from Joe Malenko; Nagoya, Japan)

* ALL JAPAN WOMEN'S PACIFIC CHAMPION: MINAMI TOYODA

(October 7, 1990; for vacant title over Bison Kimura; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPION: STAN HANSEN

(July 27, 1990; for vacant title over Mitsuharu Misawa; Matsudo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: BULL NAKANO

(April 1, 1990; from Mitsuko Nishiwaki; Tokyo, Japan)

* ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S CHAMPION: KYOKO INOUE

(October 2, 1990; for vacant title over Takako Inoue; Yamagata, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

AKIRA HOKUTO & SUZUKA MINAMI

(February 7, 1990; from Grizzly Iwamoto & Aja Kong; Osaka, Japan)

AWA LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: BUCK ZUMHOFF

(August 12, 1990; tournament final over Jonnie Stewart; Rochester, MN)

AWA WORLD CHAMPION: LARRY ZBYSZKO

(April 8, 1990; from Mr. Saito; St. Paul, MN)

AWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE TROOPER & D.J. PETERSON

(August 11, 1990; from The Destruction Crew; Rochester, MN)

AWA WORLD WOMEN'S CHAMPION: CANDI DEVINE

(December 6, 1989; tournament match over Judy Martin; Toronto, Ontario)

GEORGIA ALL-STAR CHAMPION: NICK BUSICK

(May 17, 1990; tournament final over Mike Golden; Lawrenceville, GA)

ICW CHAMPION: VIC STEAMBOAT

(July 24, 1990; from Tony Atlas; Middletown, NY)

ICW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE UNDERTAKERS

(March 31, 1990; tournament final over Phil Apollo & Eric Sbraccia; Charlton, MA)

IWA (JAPAN) WOMEN'S CHAMPION: MADUSA MICELI

(September 14, 1989; tournament final over Beastie; Kumamoto, Japan)

* IWA U.S. CHAMPION: PRESTON STEELE

(October 5, 1990; from Cactus Jack; Girard, Ohio)

IWA WOMEN'S CHAMPION: BAMBI

(March 25, 1990; from Peggy Lee Leather; Palmetto, FL)

IWGP CHAMPION: RIKI CHOSHU

(August 19, 1990; from Big Van Vader; Tokyo, Japan)

IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

THE GREAT MUTA & MASA CHONO

(April 27, 1990; from Mr. Saito & Shinya Hashimoto; Tokyo Bay, Japan)

IWGP JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: THE PEGASUS KID

(August 19, 1990; from Jushin Riger; Tokyo, Japan)

LPWA CHAMPION: SUSAN SEXTON

(by LPWA officials' decision)

LPWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

MISTY BLUE SIMMES & HEIDI LEE MORGAN

(March 13, 1990; tournament final over Bad Girl & Black Venus; Laughlin, NV)

NWA TV CHAMPION: ARN ANDERSON

(January 2, 1990; from The Great Muta; Gainesville, GA)

NWA WORLD CHAMPION: STING

(July 7, 1990; from Ric Flair; Baltimore, MD)

NWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DOOM

(May 19, 1990; from Rick & Scott Steiner; Washington, DC)

* NWL CHAMPION: JOHN RAMBO

(October 23, 1990; for held-up title over Cactus Jack; Mangilao, Guam)

* NWL WOMEN'S CHAMPION: BAMBI

(October 23, 1990; from Peggy Lee Leather; Mangilao, Guam)

* NWL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: PAUL ORNDORFF & BRIAN BLAIR

(October 23, 1990; from The Disciples of Darkness; Mangilao, Guam)

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAMPION: THE GRAPPLER

(August 4, 1990; for held-up title over Scotty the Body; Portland, OR)

* PACIFIC NORTHWEST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: RIP & LARRY OLIVER

(September 29, 1990; from Ricky Santana & Al Madril; Portland, OR)

PACIFIC NORTHWEST TV CHAMPION: SCOTTY THE BODY

(March 17, 1990; from Ricky Santana; Portland, OR)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION: STAN HANSEN

(July 27, 1990; for vacant title over Mitsuharu Misawa; Matsudo, Japan)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION INT'L TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Jumbo Tsuruta & Kabuki)

PRO WRESTLING AMERICA CHAMPION: RICKY RICE

(September 22, 1990; from Jerry Lynn; Chicago, IL)

PWF (FLORIDA) CHAMPION: STEVE KEIRN

(July 9, 1989; from Kendall Windham; Orlando, FL)

PWF (FLORIDA) TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MARK STARR & SGT. ROCK

(September 13, 1990; from Hurricane Walker (substituting for Mike Graham) & Joe Gomez; Tampa, FL)

PWF (FLORIDA) LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JIM BACKLUND

(August 2, 1990; from Lou Perez; Tampa, FL)

* SOUTH ATLANTIC HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: ROBERT FULLER

(October 22, 1990; from Paul Jones; Kings Mountain, NC)

SOUTH ATLANTIC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE AMERICAN BULLDOGS

(September 11, 1990; from The Nasty Boys; Columbia, SC)

* U.S. CHAMPION: STAN HANSEN

(October 27, 1990; from Lex Luger; Chicago, IL)

U.S. TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: RICK & SCOTT STEINER

(August 24, 1990; from The Midnight Express; East Rutherford, NJ)

* USWA CHAMPION: JERRY LAWLER

(October 8, 1990; tournament final over Austin Idol; Memphis, TN)

* USWA SOUTHERN CHAMPION: EDDIE GILBERT

(October 29, 1990; from Jeff Jarrett; Memphis, TN)

* USWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DOUG GILBERT & TONY ANTHONY

(October 6, 1990; Jeff Jarrett & Jeff Gaylord; Memphis, TN)

UWA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: BIG VAN VADER

(November 22, 1989; from El Canek; Mexico City, Mexico)

WWC CARIBBEAN CHAMPION: KIM DUK

(September 8, 1990; from Invader I; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)

WWC CARIBBEAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

ERIC EMBRY & RICK VALENTINE

(September 23, 1990; from Hurricane Castillo Jr. & Miguel Perez Jr; Juana Diaz, Puerto Rico)

* WWC JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: HURRICANE CASTILLO JR.

(October 6, 1990; from Ron Starr; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)

WWC PUERTO RICAN CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Manny Fernandez)

* WWC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE TEXAS HANGMEN

(September 29, 1990; from The Super Medics; Carolina, Puerto Rico)

WWC UNIVERSAL CHAMPION: CARLOS COLON

(March 31, 1990; from Abdullah the Butcher; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

* WWC WOMEN'S CHAMPION: SASHA

(October 13, 1990; from Monster Ripper; Caguas, Puerto Rico)

WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: KERRY VON ERICH

(August 27, 1990; from Curt Hennig; Philadelphia, PA)

WWF WORLD CHAMPION: THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR

(April 1, 1990; from Hulk Hogan; Toronto, Ontario)

* WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE ROCKERS

(October 30, 1990; from The Hart Foundation; Ft. Wayne, IN)

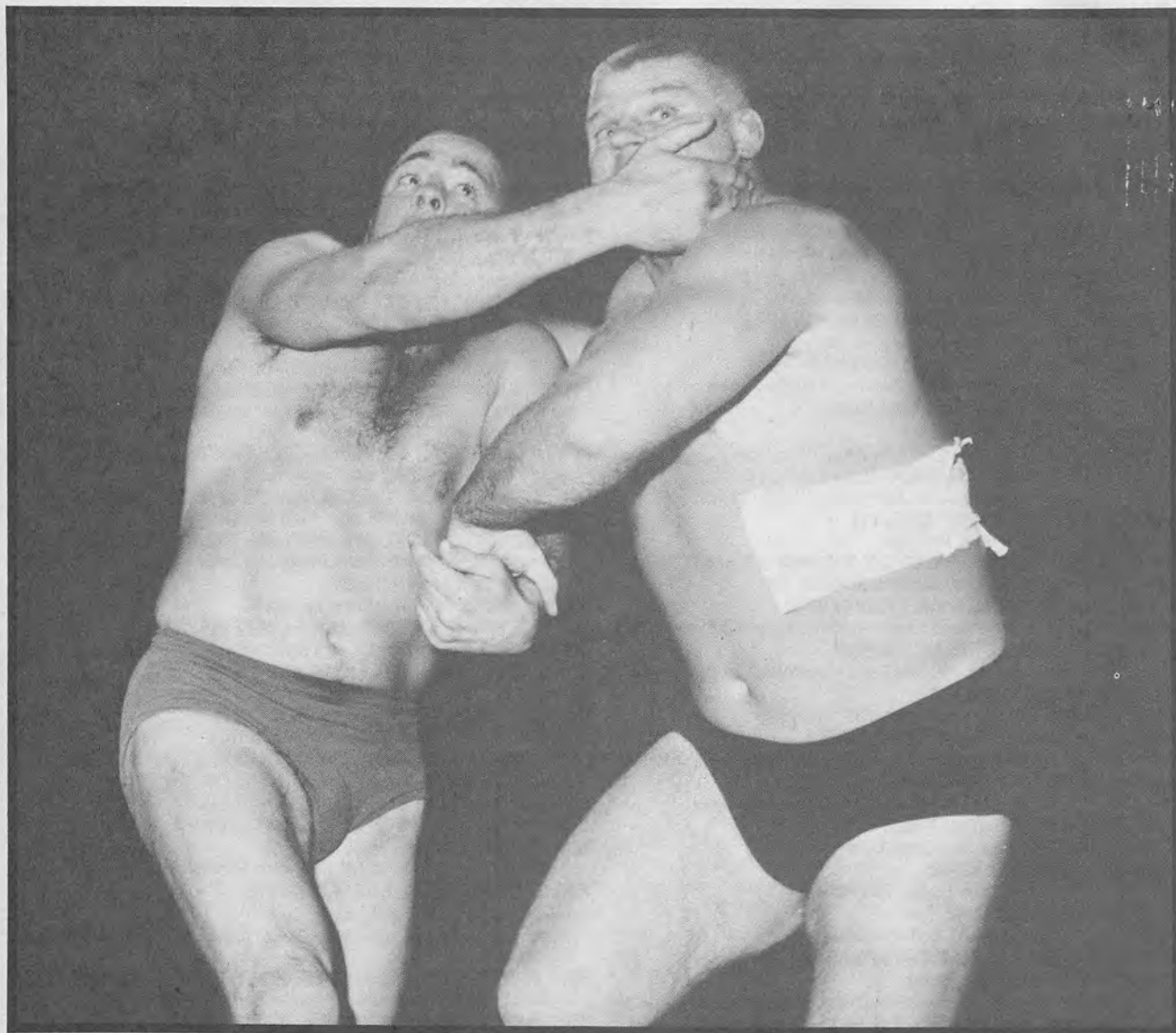
WWF WOMEN'S CHAMPION: ROCKIN' ROBIN

(October 7, 1988; from Sherri Martel; Paris, France)

Blast From The Past

This Month In Wrestling History

“IMMEDIATE REVENGE—AND REGAINED GLORY”



VERNE GAGNE vs. CRUSHER

December 13, 1963

Crusher, the wrestler that made Milwaukee famous, attempts to whip Verne Gagne into the ropes, only to have the attempt blocked by Gagne in this wild best-of-three-falls match at the Minneapolis Auditorium. Two weeks earlier in St. Paul, Crusher defeated Gagne to win the AWA World championship, but injured his rib cage in the process. This rematch was quickly signed, and Gagne not only did further damage to Crusher's ribs with a flurry of punches, he took back the title by pinning Crusher in the third fall. The victory began the sixth of Gagne's record nine AWA World championships.

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If You Do,
You can . . .
**WIN
\$200!**

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& Bruno Sammartino
Test Your Wrestling I.Q.

**PRO Wrestling
ILLUSTRATED**

TRIVIA GAME II

1-900-246-4PWI

\$200

**Weekly Prize For The
Highest Overall Score!**

\$25

**PWI Deluxe Merchandise
Package For Daily Winners!**

Beginning October 1

\$2 for the first minute and \$1 each additional minute. (Kids, get your parents' permission!) Produced By Phone Programs USA, Inc.

WRESTLING TRIVIA CONTEST OFFICIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. **Description of Game:** Wrestling Trivia is an interactive game of skill sponsored by Phone Programs USA, Inc. ("PPI") and G. C. London Publishing Associates ("GCL") in connection with the magazine "Pro Wrestling Illustrated (PWI)." 2. **Terms:** The contest begins October 1, 1990 and continues through January 31, 1991. 3. **Telephone Requirement:** Callers with a touch-tone telephone can access the game from anywhere in the continental United States by dialing 1-900-246-4PWI (4794) at any time, 24 hours a day, within the term. Callers with a rotary telephone are technically unable to play. Calls from any one telephone number shall be limited to three (3) per day. 4. **Age Restrictions:** There is no age restriction to play the game. Anyone under 18 years of age must get parental permission before calling the program. All prizes won by a person under 18 will be awarded in his name to his parent or legal guardian. 5. **Cost Per Call:** The charge for each call is \$2 for the first minute and \$1 for each additional minute. 6. **Prize Structure:** The caller with the highest daily score shall win a PWI merchandise package, including one (1) each of a PWI T-shirt, PWI cap, PWI button, PWI bumper sticker, and PWI Skyflyer. (A prize valued at \$25). All daily winners shall receive a prize. In the event of a tie for the daily score, PWI merchandise packages will be awarded to all qualified winners. Each caller with the highest weekly score shall win \$200 cash. In the event of a tie for the weekly prize, PPI reserves the right to divide the cash equivalent among the qualified winners. The total prize value of the contest is estimated to be a minimum of \$2,925. An individual may win only one (1) prize at each level. 8. **The Game:** Each call is a separate game; points may not be accumulated. The caller shall be asked a series of questions made up of true/false, multiple choice, and fill-in. Callers shall receive one question per level and if they correctly answer all questions, they shall go back to the first level until an incorrect response is made or until all questions are answered correctly. At the end of the game, the caller shall be asked his name, age, home address, and telephone number. 9.

Notification: All winners shall be notified by telephone within fifteen (15) days after January 31, 1991. Calls shall be made during the hours of 3:00 PM - 11:00 PM EDT for a minimum of three (3) days. If the winner cannot be reached after every reasonable effort has been exerted, then that winner shall be disqualified and the caller with the next highest score shall be declared the winner. All prizes have been supplied by PPI and GCL. Each winner must present a birth certificate together with a copy of a telephone bill or other notice verifying home telephone number; sign and return an Affidavit of Eligibility and Release. PPI and GCL reserve the right to award substitute prizes of equal value. Any and all applicable income taxes are the sole responsibility of the winners. 10. **Reservations:** PPI and GCL reserve the right to add or replace questions at any time and cancel the game at any time. Players waive any claim or right in the event of any ambiguity or error in any question or answer, and by entering, players agree to be bound by these rules and decisions of PPI and GCL. All decisions of PPI and GCL are final. Players further acknowledge that the correct answers to all questions are those provided and validated by PPI and GCL. Upon completion of the term of the game, a complete set of questions and answers may be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to "Wrestling Trivia," P.O. Box 7012, FDR Station, New York, NY 10022. 11. **Technical Malfunctions:** Neither the sponsors nor their service provider are responsible for incorrect or inaccurate entry of information whether caused by the caller, or by any of the equipment or programming associated with or utilized in this contest or by any human error which may occur in the processing of the entries to this contest. 12. **Restrictions:** Void where prohibited. Employees and families of PPI, GCL, and Sprint Gateways and their affiliates are not eligible. All state and local laws apply. 13. **Rules Availability:** A copy of these rules and/or a complete list of winners can be obtained free of charge, in person, from PPI, 919 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10022, during normal business hours, or write, "Wrestling Trivia," P.O. Box 7012, FDR Station, New York, NY 10022.

COMING JANUARY 1

THE BIG ONE

The Spectacular Year-End Double Issue Of

**PRO Wrestling
ILLUSTRATED**

The Most Celebrated Magazine Event Of The Year!

- 100 power-packed pages, including full-page FULL-COLOR portraits of 1990's best wrestlers and matches!
- Achievement '90 winners in 10 categories!
- Your own "Unofficial/Official Awards" for 1990
- Predictions for 1991
- An extensive collection of "PW/SuperStats"
- Special year-end features and columns

The incredible 100-page super-spectacular year-end collectors' edition of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* is cover-dated "March 1991" and goes on sale on January 1, 1991. It's sure to be a newsstand sellout, so get yours early!

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